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ANNALS

OF

COMMERCE,

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND NAVIGATION,

WITH

BRIEF NOTICES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CONNECTED WITH THEM.

CONTAINING THE

COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

BRITISH EMPIRE AND OTHER COUNTRIES,

FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS TO THE MEETING OF THE UNION PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY 1801;

AND COMPREHENDING THE MOST VALUABLE PART OF THE LATE MR. ANDERSON'S HISTORY OF COMMERCE, VIZ. FROM THE YEAR 1492 TO THE END OF THE REIGN OF GEORGE II, KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

WITH A LARGE APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLES OF THE SOVEREIGNS OF EUROPE, TABLES OF THE ALTERATIONS OF MONEY IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND,

A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE PRICES OF CORN, &c. and A COMMERCIAL AND MANUFACTURAL GAZETTEER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND;

WITH A GENERAL CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX.

The Antient Part composed from the most authentic Original Historians and Public Records, printed and in Manuscript; and the modern Part from Materials of unquestionable Authenticity (mostly unpublished) extracted from the Records of Parliament, the Accounts of the Custom-house, the Mint, the Board of Trade, the Post-office, the East-India Company, the Bank of England, &c. &c.

By DAVID MACPHERSON.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

PRINTED FOR

NICHOLS AND SON, W. J. AND J. RICHARDSON, J. STOCKDALE, J. WALKER, WILKIE AND ROBINSON, SCATCHERD AND LETTERMAN, G. ROBINSON, WYNNE AND SON, DARTON AND HARVEY, CLARKE AND SONS, CADELL AND DAVIES, LACKINGTON ALLEN AND CO. J. MAWMAN, J. HARDING, BLACKS AND PARRY, J. BOOKER, AND J. ASPERNE,

LONDON;

AND FOR MUNDELL AND SON, EDINBURGH.

1805.

EDINBURGH, PRINTED BY MENDHAL AND SON.

THE THIRD VOLUME CONTAINS

(THE CONTINUATION OF PART II)

The Commercial Transactions of the British Empire and other Countries, from the Union of the Kingdoms of England and Scotland to the End of the Reign of George II, King of Great Britain, &c. originally written by the late Mr. Anderson, who related the Events of this Period chiefly from his own Observation, and now re-edited, with the Retrenchment of Superfluous Matter, with Additions, and with Amendments.

AND

(PART III)

The Commercial Transactions of the British Empire and other Countries, from the Commencement of the Reign of his present Majesty, George III, King of Great Britain and Ireland, to the End of the Year 1782; composed from Materials of unquestionable Authenticity (mostly unpublished) extracted from the Records of Parliament, the Accounts of the Custom-House, the Mint, the Board of Trade, the Post Office, the East-India Company, the Bank of England, &c. &c.

ANNALS

OF

COMMERCE.

A. D. 1708.

THE old law of the firſt year of King James I, for garbling ſpices and drugs in London, (which we did not judge worth while then to recite), being in length of time found to be not only uſeleſs for the moſt part, but often prejudicial, was now repealed: and an equivalent given to the city of London for the profits formerly made by the garbler's office, by laying a tax of 40ſ yearly, to be paid to the chamberlain of London by all brokers, who, if acting as ſuch without regular admittance, were now to forfeit L25. Nevertheleſs, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council may, if they ſo judge fit, appoint a perſon to be garbler; who, at the requeſt of the owner of any ſpices, drugs, &c. garbleable, and not otherwiſe, ſhall garble the ſame, for ſuch fee as the lord mayor, &c. ſhall appoint.

In this ſame year, the Britiſh revenue being under the management of ſo able and upright a lord-treaſurer as the earl of Godolphin, the credit of the public was on ſo good a footing, that it was judged adviſable to avail the nation thereof, by reducing the rate of intereſt on the debt of two millions due to the Eaſt-India company. This was done by a ſtatute for aſſuring to the Engliſh company trading to the Eaſt-Indies, on account of the united ſtock, a longer time in the fund and trade.—And for raiſing thereby L1,200,000 for her majeſty's occaſions.

Hereby the united company now advanced L1,200,000 without any additional intereſt; ſo as for the whole capital, now conſiſting of L3,200,000, they ſhould thenceforth receive of the public but 5 per cent intereſt, or L160,000l. per annum: 'On condition, that the term 'of their excluſive trade to India ſhould be prolonged for fourteen 'years and an half longer; that is to ſay, whereas, by the law of '1698, they were to be redeemable upon three years notice after 1711, 'and repayment of principal and intereſt, their redemption was now 'prolonged to three years notice after Lady-day 1726. And for en-'abling the company to make good this loan to the public, they were 'by this act impowered to borrow as far as L1,500,000 on bonds, over 'and above what they were legally impowered to do before, and alſo 'to make calls of money from their proprietors. The proprietors of 'the L7200 in ſeparate trade, may ſtill continue ſo to trade till Mi-'chaelmas 1711, when the united company may, on three years notice, 'pay the ſame off; whereby their privileges of trading ſhall be ſolely 'veſted in the company. By this act, that part of the act of the 12th 'of King William, which laid a duty of 5 per cent on goods exported 'to India, was to ceaſe from Michaelmas 1714. And, in order that a 'ſpeedy and complete union between the old and new companies might 'be effected, in purſuance of the indenture tripartite of the year 1702, 'the final determination of all matters in difference between the ſaid 'companies, and the completing of their union was hereby referred 'to the earl of Godolphin, lord high treaſurer of Great Britain, as his 'lordſhip ſhould think fit, by an award in writing, under his hand and 'ſeal: the whole to be completed, and the old company's charter to 'be ſurrendered, by Michaelmas 1708; after which, the company's 'ſtile and title to be, *The united company of merchants of England trading 'to the Eaſt-Indies.*' [6 *Ann. c.* 17.]

It is almoſt needleſs to remark, that much clamour was raiſed againſt this renewal of the excluſive privileges of trading to India, as was naturally to be expected, and had always before happened on every ſuch renewal. Many pamphlets were publiſhed for inducing the legiſlature to lay that trade open; or, at leaſt, to let Briſtol, Liverpool, Hull, and other great trading towns, into a proportionable ſhare of it. It was plauſibly ſaid, that it was hard, London alone ſhould engroſs all this vaſt commerce, whereas the Dutch Eaſt-India company comprehended ſix of their towns therein, in the year 1602, when that company was firſt ſettled on its preſent eſtabliſhment. But the (at leaſt equally plauſible) anſwer was, that, as it is a transferrable ſtock, every perſon in the three kingdoms might freely purchaſe ſhares therein. It is alſo needleſs farther to remark, that the like clamour was afterward renewed, as often as the legiſlature was applied to for a farther prolongation of their ex-

cluſive privileges; and this, probably, will continue to be the caſe in any future application for the like purpoſe.

To complete all that is needful to be known concerning the union of the two Eaſt-India companies, we ſhall here farther note, that the following regulations were in conſequence thereof made, viz.

I) For every L100 old ſtock, there was given L100 : 8 : 10 ſtock in the united company.

II) Twenty-five one half per cent was made a call on the proprietors of the old company, for enabling them to be joined to the united one.

III) The remaining debts owing to, and effects of, the old company were veſted in truſtees for the benefit of the proprietors of the old company, who were ſuch at the time of uniting with the new one.

By a ſtatute [6 *Ann. c.* 22] for continuing ſeveral duties therein mentioned, upon coffee, &c.; and for ſecuring the credit of the bank of England, &c.; it was, amongſt many other points, enacted, 'that during the continuance of the governor and company of the bank of England, it ſhould not be lawful for any body-politic, erected or to be erected, other than the ſaid governor and company of the bank of England, or, for other perſons whatſoever, united or to be united in covenants or partnerſhip, exceeding the numbor of ſix perſons, in that part of Great Britain called England, to borrow, owe, or take up any ſum or ſums of money on their bills or notes, payable on demand, or in any leſs time than ſix months from the borrowing thereof.' The reaſon aſſigned for this enacting clauſe, was, 'that ſome corporations, (notwithſtanding the law of the 8th year of King William, [*c.* 19] by colour of their charters, and other great numbers of perſons, by pretence of deeds or covenants, united together, had preſumed to borrow great ſums of money, and therewith to deal as a bank, to the apparent danger of the eſtabliſhed credit of the kingdom.'

This clauſe was principally aimed at the mine-adventure company, who, contrary to law, had ſet up for banking, and iſſued caſh-notes, &c. as has been already related.

This year the iſland of Minorca, with its commodious haven of Port-Mahon, and its ſtrong fort of St. Philip, belonging to Spain, was ſubdued by the Britiſh forces, commanded by Major-general Stanhope. By poſſeſſion thereof, (as Mr. Burchett, in his Naval hiſtory obſerves,) 'we have the advantage of a goodly harbour, which, during the war, was exceeding uſeful to us, (as it may hereafter be on the like occaſion) in cleaning and refitting ſuch of our ſhips as were employed in the Mediterranean: and not only magazines of ſtores were lodged there for that purpoſe, but ſuch officers were appointed to reſide on the place as were judged requiſite.'

The French king intending this year an invaſion of Scotland, for ſupporting the pretender's claim, there enſued a great demand, or run,

as it is usually termed, on the bank of England: and the credit thereof being so nearly connected with that of the exchequer, the Lord-treasurer Godolphin, for applying an effectual remedy thereto, signified to the directors of the bank, that the queen would, for six months, allow an interest of 6 per cent on their sealed bills, which till then bore only 3 per cent. Moreover, his lordship, and the dukes of Marlborough, Newcastle, and Somerset, and sundry other lords, offered to advance to the bank considerable sums of money: by which encouragement, and their making a call of 20 per cent on their capital, the bank was enabled to weather that storm, and to preserve their credit.

In the same year, a like statute for the registers of deeds, conveyances, wills, devises, mortgages, &c. in the east-riding of Yorkshire, was made, as had been made for the west-riding of the same county four years before, and for much the same reasons as were assigned for that; only the necessity of such a register is, in the present act, expressed somewhat stronger. It is therein said, 'that the lands in the east-riding, and 'in the town and county of the town of Kingston upon Hull, being 'generally freehold, they may be so secretly transferred or conveyed 'from one person to another, that such as are ill-disposed have it in 'their power to commit frauds, and frequently do so, by means where-'of several persons, who through many years industry in their trades 'and employments, and by great frugality, have been enabled to pur-'chase lands, or to lend monies on land security, have been undone in 'their purchases and mortgages, by prior and secret conveyances, and 'fraudulent incumbrances; and not only themselves, but their whole 'families thereby utterly ruined. All the provisions and clauses in this 'act, were hereby extended to the honors, manors, lands, and tenements, 'in the west-riding of that county, the two former acts relating to it 'being found defective in several particulars.' [6 *Ann. c.* 25.]

Loud complaints being at this time made against the London pawnbrokers, on account of their grinding the faces of the poor by the extravagant usury they took for pledges or pawns, even the most moderate of them taking at least 30 per cent, and some twice as much, an application was made to the crown for a charter to incorporate a number of persons of credit, which they obtained this year, under the name of the charitable corporation for lending money to the industrious, but necessitous, poor at a moderate interest. Yet, as their capital was but L30,000, they did not sufficiently extend their scheme until the year 1719, when several gentlemen of fortune came into it. Their conditions for lending were only 10 per cent, viz. 5 per cent as for mere interest, and the other 5 per cent for supporting the expense of the corporation, such as house and ware-house rent, salaries of officers and servants, &c. In 1725 they obtained from the crown a farther augmentation of their capital, and soon after another: and their directors pro-

ceeded to borrow large ſums of money for the ſupport of their ſcheme. But, in a few years after, a diſcovery was made of many and great frauds committed by their ſervants, ſuch as, loans on fictitious pawns, embezzlements, &c. which occaſioned a parliamentary inquiry; the reſult of which was, that by ſuch frauds and miſmanagements, the corporation had not effects ſufficient to pay even but a ſmall part of the money they had borrowed at intereſt of a great number of perſons, many of whom were thereby reduced to great diſtreſs; the whole amounting to L487,895 : 14 : $10\frac{3}{4}$, to anſwer which, there remained no more in money and other effects, than L34,150 : 13 : $1\frac{1}{2}$, excepting what might be recovered from the debtors of the corporation, which (ſays the ſtatute after-named) was then uncertain. Hereupon, the houſe of commons expelled ſuch of their members as were directors thereof; moſt of whom had, in other reſpects, retained till then fair characters. And, in the year 1733, the parliament, [6 *Geo. II, c.* 35] granted a lottery for L500,000 for the relief of ſuch of the ſufferers as ſhould appear to five maſters in chancery, therein named, to be objects of compaſſion; out of which L25 per cent was deducted, and in the following year diſtributed amongſt the ſufferers, amounting, after all the expenſe of this lottery was deducted, to 9/9 per pound of their loſs, by an act of the 8th of King George II. *c.* 11. in 1734. Since which time, that ill-conducted corporation retains nothing but its empty name.

1709.—The general naturalization in England of foreign proteſtants, has been variouſly reaſoned upon by many perſons, in different periods. In the beginning of the year 1709, a bill was ordered into the houſe of commons for that end; in favour of which, it was argued, that very great benefits would thereby accrue to Britain; that the king of Pruſſia, by inviting the French refugees to ſettle in his dominions, had fertilized a barren and ill-peopled country, improved its trade and manufactures, and increaſed his own revenues, &c. The preamble of the act, [7 *Ann, c.* 5.] for naturalizing foreign proteſtants, therefor, obſerves, that, whereas the increaſe of people is a means of advancing the wealth and ſtrength of a nation; it was therefor enacted,—I) that all perſons born out of the ligeance of her majeſty, who ſhall take and ſubſcribe the oaths, and the declaration of the 6th of this reign, ſhall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be her majeſty's natural-born ſubjects: provided they ſhall have received the ſacrament of the Lord's ſupper in ſome proteſtant or reformed congregation within this kingdom of Great Britain within three months before their taking the ſaid oaths, and ſhall produce a certificate ſigned by the perſon adminiſtering the ſaid ſacrament, and atteſted by two credible witneſſes.

II) That the children of all natural-born ſubjects, though born out of the ligeance of her majeſty, her heirs, and ſucceſſors, ſhall be deemed

and adjudged to be natural-born ſubjects of this kingdom to all intents, conſtructions, and purpoſes whatſoever. And,

III) The like naturalization of foreign proteſtants ſhall take place in Ireland.* This law was ſaid to have been made with a particular view to the proteſtant Palatines brought this year into England.

For, in May in this ſame year, near 7000 of the poor Palatines and Swabians, who had been utterly ruined, and driven from their habitations near the Rhine by the French, were, in compaſſion of their miſery, brought over to England, and were ſoon after followed by more: but without any ſettled or concerted plan for their eſtabliſhment any where. Had they been all immediately tranſported to ſome of our American continental colonies, as ſome propoſed, they would before now have proved a conſiderable addition to our ſtrength in thoſe parts. Others propoſed to ſettle them in the New foreſt of Hampſhire, where land might be parcelled out for them by ſhares or lots. It was doubtleſs an ill-conducted, though well-meant affair. However, being landed, there was a neceſſity of keeping them from periſhing. A ſufficient number of tents was erected for them on Blackheath, and near Camberwell, and a brief was granted for a collection for them throughout Great Britain. Some of them were taken into private families; 500 families of them were ſent into Ireland, where L24,000 was granted by parliament for their ſupport; 3000 of them were at length ſent over to New-York, and ſettled upon Hudſon's river; many of whom being badly received there, removed to Pennſylvania, where they were moſt kindly entertained by the quakers, which afterwards proved the means of drawing thither many thouſands of German and Switz proteſtants, whereby Pennſylvania is ſince become by far the moſt populous and flouriſhing colony (for its ſtanding) of any in Britiſh America.

During all this reign, the bank of England was found extremely convenient and uſeful in ſupporting the national credit: the better, therefor, to enable that corporation to be farther beneficial to the public, as well as to themſelves, by aſſiſting in raiſing the ſupplies for the current ſervice of the year 1709, the bank was encouraged to propoſe to the houſe of commons a ſcheme for circulating L2,500,000 of exchequer bills: in which year, the whole ſupply voted, amounted to above ſeven millions. An act of parliament, therefor, paſſed in this year, 'for enlarging the capital ſtock of the bank of England, and for raiſing a farther ſupply to her majeſty for the ſervice of the year 1709; wherein the act for the firſt eſtabliſhment of the bank, and all the ſubſequent ſtatutes are in part recited. And that the bank continues to permit new ſubſcriptions for the doubling of their preſent ſtock of L2,201,171 : 10, by ſelling their ſaid additional ſtock at the rate of L115 for every L100 ſubſcribed.' [7 *Ann. c.* 7.] The whole was ſubſcribed for between the

* This clauſe is farther explained by the act 4 *Geo. II, c.* 21. *A.*

hours of nine in the morning and one in the afternoon on the firſt day of opening the ſubſcription books. This was by foreigners eſteemed a proof of the great wealth of the nation, more eſpecially as near one million more would have been ſubſcribed on the ſame day, had there been room for it, ſo great was the crowd of people coming with their money to the books. But, like the Eaſt-India company, the bank hereby obliged themſelves to advance to the government L400,000, without any additional allowance of intereſt for that ſum, which made their original capital of L1,200,000, at 8 per cent, amount to L1,600,000 at 6 per cent intereſt, to commence from the 1ſt of Auguſt 1711, being their original yearly fund. And as the bank had 6 per cent per annum, diſcount was thereby allowed them on the ſaid L400,000 till the 1ſt of Auguſt 1711, for the money they were ſo to pay in; and the advance of 15 per cent on the ſale of this additional ſtock, enabled them to make this payment of L400,000 to the public.

Thus the bank capital, a part of which was only temporary, till now was - - - - - - L2,201,171 10 0

Which being now doubled, became - 4,402,343 0 0

And by the L400,000 now farther advanced, 400,000 0 0

The total was now to be, at 6 per cent intereſt, 4,802,343 0 0

In conſideration of which ſum of L400,000, ſo lent without any additional intereſt, their excluſive privileges as a bank were hereby prolonged to one year's notice after the 1ſt of Auguſt 1732. But by the ſame ſtatute the bank obliged themſelves to pay off and cancel all the exchequer bills which had been before iſſued, amounting, with their intereſt at 6 per cent,* to - - - - 1,775,027 17 10½

So that the total capital of the bank, by this act, was - - - - - - 6,577,370 17 10½

By this act of parliament, the bank was to remain an eſtabliſhed corporation (notwithſtanding the acts of the 5th and 8th of King William) and all their former privileges were now confirmed, as alſo their original annual fund of L100,000, until the whole L1,600,000 ſhould be paid off; and alſo the annuity of L106,501 : 13 : 5 after mentioned; and till all the exchequer bills, to be made forth purſuant to this act, ſhould be called in, as herein after mentioned, and payment made of the allowances for circulating the ſame. Then, and not before, the corporation was to ceaſe and determine. The ſaid L106,501 : 13 : 5 was to be the intereſt, at 6 per cent, of the ſaid L1,775,027 : 17 : 10½.

* Notwithſtanding the reduction of the intereſt received from the government from *eight* to *ſix* per cent, the bank continued to make a dividend of *nine* per cent to the proprietors. *M.*

The bank to be allowed 3 per cent per annum for circulating the ſaid $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions of exchequer bills, which were alſo to be at a like intereſt of 3 per cent, or 2*d* per L100 per day, except when they ſhall be in the exchequer, or in the hands of the receivers or collectors of any taxes, cuſtoms, &c. payable to her majeſty. The bank might make calls on their members for enabling them to circulate the ſaid exchequer bills. The bank might make dividends to their members, of their principal or capital ſtock, (as they afterward did of the ſaid L1,775,027 : 17 : $10\frac{1}{2}$), which principal ſtock, however, ſhall always remain at leaſt equal to all the debts they ſhall owe; otherwiſe, the particular members receiving ſuch dividends ſhall be anſwerable, ſo far as ſuch dividends ſhall extend. The reſt of this long act relates to the duties and taxes to be raiſed for a fund for paying the intereſt on the above principal ſums.

About this time, and probably in imitation of the bank of England, the government of France projected a royal bank for the circulation of their mint bills. But the ſcarcity of money in France rendered the ſcheme abortive.

By a printed paper in the author's collections, taken from a report to the houſe of commons, we have the following accurate account of the revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain for the year 1709, viz.

The groſs amount of the cuſtoms was -				L2,319,320	0 0
From which deduct,					
Salaries and incidents,	L152,184	12	1		
Drawbacks on foreign goods,	717,190	17	2		
Bounty-money for corn exported, - - -	36,027	1	4		
Allowances for damages and over-entries, - -	57,075	15	$0\frac{1}{4}$		
Portage paid to maſters of ſhips,	3,358	19	6		
				965,837	0 0
Net amount of the cuſtoms in the year 1709,*				L1,353,483	0 0

In D' Avenant's report to the commiſſioners of accounts, [*part* i. *p.* 32. *London*, 1712,] he gives the importation of tobacco from America into England, at a medium of ten years, ending in 1709, viz.

Imported pounds weight, on a medium, yearly,	28,858,666
Exported, on a like medium, - -	17,598,007
Conſumed at home, (pounds weight), - -	11,260,659

This year the Britiſh houſe of commons took the African trade into their conſideration, and in a grand committee, reſolved, that, as that trade was more eſpecially neceſſary for the Britiſh American plantations, it ought to be free to all her majeſty's ſubjects, in a regulated,

* See the year 1715.

and not an exclusive, company. Yet when a bill for that end was brought into the house, it met with so many objections that it was dropped for this time.

The regulations, which had been legally made in the year 1698 in the trade to Africa, had not given satisfaction to the separate traders, on account of the company's bad conduct, which made those separate traders apply for such a law; as they also did in the year following, with equal success, after many hearings of the company, as well as of the separate traders, the parliament finding it extremely difficult to obviate and remove the objections started on either side, in relation to that commerce.

We have, in this year 1709, a third instance of the legal registering of deeds in England, being a law made for registering deeds, conveyances, and wills, and other incumbrances, made of, or affecting, any honors, manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, within the county of Middlesex; the preamble to which runs in such a strong and just strain, as seems well to merit the serious consideration of both the landed and monied interests in every other county of England, viz. 'whereas, by 'the different and secret ways of conveying lands, tenements, and he-'reditaments, such as are ill-disposed, have it in their power to commit 'frauds, and frequently do so, by means whereof several persons (who 'through many years industry in their trades and employments, and 'by great frugality have been enabled to purchase lands, or to lend 'monies on land security) have been undone in their purchases and 'mortgages, by prior and secret conveyances, and fraudulent incum-'brances; and not only themselves, but their whole families, thereby 'utterly ruined.' Therefor it was now enacted, that a memorial of all deeds, &c. and of all wills and devises in writing should be registered by the proper officers thereby appointed, for the fee of only one shilling. And every deed or conveyance, which should thereafter be executed, should be adjudged fraudulent, and void against any subsequent purchaser or mortgagee for valuable consideration, unless such memorial thereof be registered, as by this act is directed, before the registering of the memorial of the deed or conveyance under which such subsequent purchaser or mortgagee should claim: and the like as to memorials of wills not registered. The preamble declares this act to have been made at the humble request of the justices of the peace, gentlemen, and freeholders, of the county of Middlesex. [7 *Ann. c.* 20.]

Notwithstanding the evident utility and safety of a general register for all England, an attempt for it, many years after this time, was unaccountably rejected.

1710.—By an act of parliament, [8 *Ann. c.* 12] the entrance into the port of Liverpool having been long experienced to be so dangerous and

difficult, that great numbers of ſtrangers and others have frequently loſt their lives with ſhips and goods, for want of proper land-marks, buoys, and other directions into it, and more eſpecially for want of a convenient wet-dock or baſon therein, the parliament laid a duty, for 21 years from midſummer 1710, on the tonnage of all ſhips trading to and from Liverpool to any part of Britain and Ireland, as well as to and from foreign countries, for making a wet-dock, &c. And it has fully anſwered the ends thereby propoſed, the wet-dock in particular, having been long ſince completed, to the great emolument of that moſt mercantile and opulent town, which has long ago become the third port (after London and Briſtol) of Great Britain, whether the number of its ſtout merchant ſhips, or of its opulent and reputable merchants be conſidered.

Under the year 1704 we have briefly laid open the proceedings of Sir H. Mackworth and his tools, of the mine-adventurers company, to the great hurt of many perſons and families: the proprietors and creditors of that company having this year petitioned the houſe of commons, a committee of that houſe was appointed to make ſtrict inquiry into the ſame. The reſult was, that it appeared they had loſt L88,000 by banking, and had ſquandered away great ſums on Sir H. Mackworth's other projects. Therefor the houſe of commons, on the 31ſt of March 1710, reſolved, *nemine contradicente*, that it appears to this houſe, that Sir Humphrey Mackworth is guilty of many notorious and ſcandalous frauds, and indirect practices, in violating the charter granted to the ſaid company, in breach of his truſt, and to the manifeſt wrong and oppreſſion of the proprietors and creditors of the company. And the like is voted againſt William Sheres, the company's ſecretary, and Dykes, their treaſurer. And that a bill be brought in for preventing them from leaving the kingdom, or alienating their eſtates. This arch hypocrite, pretending great zeal for religion, and the tory party, was thereby ſcreened from any farther cenſure or ſuffering by the new miniſtry, who, ſoon after this, got into power: and the bill was dropt by the adjournment of parliament. And, notwithſtanding all the diſgrace thrown upon Sir Humphrey Mackworth, he had the effrontery to appear again at the head of this company with new propoſals, in the year 1720, though then, and ever ſince, little better than a mere bubble.

The ſtatute intitled *aſſiza panis et cervifiæ*, i. e. for ſettling the aſſize of bread and ale, [51 *Hen. III*] being now obſcure, and alſo become otherwiſe impracticable for modern times, the poorer ſort of people, more eſpecially, had ſince been deceived and oppreſſed by an almoſt total neglect, in many places, of the due aſſize and reaſonable price of bread; for remedy thereof, and that a plain and conſtant rule and method might henceforward be duely obſerved and kept, in making and aſſizing the ſeveral ſorts of bread made for ſale, it was now enacted,

that ſo much of the ſtatute of the 51ſt year of King Henry III as relates to the aſſize of bread, be repealed. And that from the 1ſt of May 1710, the court of the lord mayor and aldermen of London and its liberties, or the lord mayor alone, by the order of the ſaid court; and the mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, or other chief magiſtrates, of any other city or town corporate; and two or more juſtices of the peace, in ſuch places where there ſhall be no ſuch mayor, &c. ſhall reſpectively, and from time to time, aſcertain and appoint, within their reſpective juriſdictions, the aſſize and weight of all ſorts of bread, to be ſold by any baker or other perſon whatſoever, having reſpect to the price which the grain, meal, or flour, whereof ſuch bread ſhall be made, ſhall bear in the ſeveral public markets, in or about the city, town-corporate, burgh, or place, where ſuch aſſize ſhall be ſo ſet, making reaſonable allowance to the bakers for their charges, pains, and livelihoods; the ſaid aſſize to be ſet in avoirdupois weight. Moreover, it was enacted, that none ſhall make for ſale any ſorts of bread, but white, wheaten, and houſehold, and ſuch other ſort and ſorts of bread as ſhall be publicly licenced and allowed by the magiſtrates in London and elſewhere. All which ſeveral ſorts of bread ſhall be made in their ſeveral reſpective degrees, according to the goodneſs of the ſeveral ſorts of grain whereof the ſame ought to be made; and the aſſize and weight of the ſaid white, wheaten, and houſehold, bread made of wheat, ſhall be ſet and aſcertained according to the table annexed, (being a table of the aſſize of bread, in pounds, ounces, and drams, avoirdupois weight, reſpecting, or in proportion to the price of the buſhel of wheat, and the baking, from a penny loaf to an eighteen-penny loaf, of the ſaid three ſorts of flour, viz. white, wheaten, and houſehold.) And to the intent that this law may be effectually complied with, every baker ſhall fairly imprint or mark on his loaves, the ſort, price, and weight of ſuch loaf, or ſuch other mark as the ſaid magiſtrates ſhall direct; who are alſo hereby authorized, from time to time, to limit, direct, and appoint, in what manner each ſort of bread ſhall be marked; or to make any other reaſonable rules and orders for regulation of bakers, and the aſſize of bread. And bakers contravening this law, and the magiſtrates reaſonable regulations, on the confeſſion of the party, or on the oath of one or more credible witneſs or witneſſes, before any of the ſaid magiſtrates, ſhall for every ſuch offence forfeit the ſum of 40ſ to the informer. Which conviction ſhall be certified to the general quarter-ſeſſions, to be there entered upon record. But the proſecution of ſuch offence ſhall be commenced within three days next after the offence committed. And the offender may appeal to the next quarter-ſeſſions, when, failing of his allegations, he ſhall pay coſts; as, on the other hand, the informer ſhall do to the baker, if he fail in his allegations. Bakers, mixing any other grain in their bread than the three ſorts herein mentioned, ſhall forfeit

20*s*; and any magiſtrate, wilfully omitting the performance of his duty herein, ſhall forfeit the like ſum. Any of the within-named magiſtrates may, in the day-time, enter into any baker's houſe or ſhop, for ſearching, weighing, and trying, his bread, which, if deficient either in weight, due baking, or not being duely marked, or of a worſe quality than is directed by this act, may be ſeized and given to the poor; and the baker, making reſiſtance, ſhall forfeit 40*s*. This act ſhall not affect the privileges of the two Engliſh univerſities, and ſhall continue for three years, and till the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament. [8 *Ann. c.* 18.]

The due aſſize of bread being ſo neceſſary for our manufacturers and artificers, as well as for all other people, this abſtract of ſo good a law, ſince made perpetual, ſeemed proper to be now exhibited.

By two acts [7 *Ann. c.* 26; 8 *Ann. c.* 21] for better ſecuring her majeſty's docks, ſhips of war, and ſtores, commiſſioners were appointed to treat for the purchaſe of ſuch lands, tenements, &c. as ſhould be judged proper for better fortifying Portſmouth, Chatham, and Harwich, i. e. for enlarging and ſtrengthening their fortifications. And proper juries were to be ſummoned for aſcertaining the juſt value of all ſuch lands as ſhould be wanted for thoſe purpoſes. We ſhall hereafter ſee that this good plan has been ſince enlarged, and alſo farther extended to Plymouth and Milfordhaven, and greater quantities of ground have been purchaſed for extending and improving the fortifications of Portſmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth; which, nevertheleſs, are, by moſt good judges of fortifications, ſtill thought, in ſome reſpects, inſufficient, conſidering the great danger the navy and the royal ſtores would be expoſed to, were an enemy vigorouſly to attack Portſmouth, Plymouth, or Chatham.

The czar of Muſcovy's rapid progreſs againſt Sweden had now well-nigh ruined that kingdom; for he not only reduced part of Finland, all Carelia, and the iſle of Oeſel; but, what was much more valuable than them all, the flower of all the Swediſh dominions, the rich, commercial, and extenſive country of Livonia, with the cities and ports of Riga, Revel, Narva, Pernau, &c. all which Ruſſia retains to this day, thereby, in the opinion of many, diſcompoſing the balance of power and of commerce in the North.

In this year General Nicholſon, with a force from England, jointly with the New-England forces, attacked and eaſily reduced a part of Nova-Scotia, and particularly the fort of Port-Royal, which had been yielded to France by the peace of Ryſwic, changing its name to that of Annapolis-Royal, which it ſtill retains, being alſo afterward confirmed to us by the peace of Utrecht. It ſtands in the bay of Fundy, on the edge of a fine harbour or baſon, capable of receiving 1000 ſhips, with good anchorage in all parts of it. This port was the rendezvous of French privateers in time of war, and of the French Indians for invad-

ing the eaſtern frontiers of New-England; and therefor of the greater importance to be ſecured to us.

According to D' Avenant's New dialogues, publiſhed in 1710, [*V.* ii, *p.* 74] there was coined in England between the years 1659 and 1710, in gold and ſilver, the ſum of L21,419,307.

The ſame author [*ibidem*, *p.* 95] ſays, he is credibly informed, 'that 'the bank of Amſterdam contains no leſs, in effectual gold and ſilver, than L36,000,000 ſterling.

1711.—It having been found inconvenient, that any perſon ſhould, at the ſame time, be in the direction of the bank of England and of the Eaſt-India company, the parliament this year, in an act of [9 *Ann. c.* 7] 'for enabling and obliging the bank of England, for the time therein 'mentioned, to exchange all exchequer bills for ready money upon de-'mand, inſerted a clauſe to diſable any perſon to be governor, deputy-'governor, or director, of the bank of England, and a director of the 'Eaſt-India company at the ſame time.'

The former laws for eſtabliſhing the poſt-offices in both kingdoms of England and Scotland were repealed; and one general poſt-office, as alſo one general poſt-maſter, was now appointed for the united kingdom: and chief letter-offices were erected at Edinburgh, Dublin, New-York, and the Weſt-Indies. At the ſame time the poſtage of letters was increaſed, viz. what paid before but 2*d* now paid 3*d*, and for double letters 6*d*, &c. 'and for the port of all and every the letters and 'packets by the carriage called the penny-poſt, eſtabliſhed within Lon-'don, Weſtminſter, Southwark, and parts adjacent, and to be received 'and delivered within ten miles from the general letter-office in Lon-'don, one penny,' which is the firſt mention of a penny-poſt in the ſtatute-book. [9 *Ann. c.* 10.]

By this act, the amount (groſs) for one year, ended at michaelmas 1710, of the poſt-office, was - - L111,461 17 10

Dr. D' Avenant's New dialogues make the net amount, on a medium of the three laſt years, to be 56,664 19 10½

By an act for preſerving white, and other, pine trees, growing in her majeſty's colonies of New-Hampſhire, the Maſſachuſet's-bay, and Province of Maine, Rhode-iſland, and Providence plantation; the Narraganſet country or King's-province, and Connecticut in New-England, alſo in New-York, and New-Jerſey, in America, for the maſting of her majeſty's navy; it is enacted, 'that whereas there are great numbers of 'thoſe trees growing in the ſaid provinces, near the ſea and on navigable 'rivers, which may be commodiouſly brought into this kingdom for that 'ſervice: for the better preſervation thereof, no perſon after the 24th of 'September 1711, in any of the ſaid colonies ſhall preſume to cut, fell, 'or deſtroy, any of thoſe trees fit for maſts, not being the property of any

'private perſon, if ſuch tree be of the growth of 24 inches diameter 'and upwards, at 12 inches from the earth, without the queen's li- 'cence firſt obtained, under the penalty of L100 ſterling for every of- 'fence. And whereas the queen's ſurveyor-general, or his deputy, is 'authorized to mark with a broad arrow all ſuch trees as are, or here- 'after ſhall be, fit for the royal navy, and to keep a regiſter of the ſame, 'none others but he or his deputies ſhall preſume to mark ſuch trees 'as aforeſaid, though growing on common lands, under the penalty of 'L5 for every ſuch offence.' [9 *Ann. c.* 17.]

This law, the firſt of the kind for maſts, has proved extremely uſeful for maſting the royal navy, and thereby alſo has ſaved much money formerly ſent to Norway for that purpoſe.

By an act of parliament for licencing and regulating hackney-coaches and chairs, (as alſo for new duties on ſtamps, leather, ſalt, &c and other purpoſes), 800 coaches, paying 5*ſ* weekly, and 200 ſedan chairs, at 10*ſ* each yearly, within London, Weſtminſter, and Southwark, and the weekly bills of mortality, are enacted to be under the management of five commiſſioners. One mile and a half for 1*ſ* fare, and two miles for 1*ſ*6, and above two miles 2*ſ*, and ſo for a greater diſtance in proportion, for coaches: and for chairs, the rule to be, that they ſhall have the ſame money for two thirds of thoſe diſtances. [9 *Ann. c.* 23.] By the 10th of Queen Anne, 100 more chairs were added: then in all to be 300. The duties to commence from midſummer 1715, and to continue from thence for 32 years. For raiſing two millions by a lottery. 'And 'whereas the proprietors and inhabitants of the iſlands of Nevis and St. 'Chriſtophers in America, had ſuſtained very great loſſes by a late in- 'vaſion of the French, and it became neceſſary to give ſome encourage- 'ment to the ſufferers for reſettling their plantations, the ſum of 'L103,003: 11: 4 was allowed to ſuch proprietors as reſettled in thoſe 'two iſlands, in proportion to their loſſes, by debentures to be iſſued 'by the commiſſioners for trade and plantations, at 6 per cent intereſt.' It appears by an act, [10 *Ann. c.* 34] that thoſe debentures amounted to one third part of the whole loſs of the ſufferers. Moreover, by an act of the 5th year of King George I, for relief of ſuch ſufferers in thoſe two iſlands as had reſettled in either of them, the diſtribution of the above ſum is farther regulated; and by one of the 8th of that king, their principal ſum unpaid, and the large arrears of intereſt thereon, joined together, had an intereſt of 3 per cent ſettled on them.

By another act of parliament, for relief of the creditors and proprietors of the company of mine-adventurers of England, &c. it appears, that the company had, through the great expenſe of working their mines, &c. contracted debts which they were altogether unable to pay; whereby, and by the diſputes ariſen amongſt their members, and between the company and their creditors, the working of their mines was

almoſt totally interrupted: and whereas their mines are ſo valuable, that, were they eſtabliſhed under good management, great profit would accrue to the public, it was therefor enacted, that all grants, contracts, bargains, &c. to any perſons by that company, ſince they firſt ſtopt payment in the year 1707 of their bills or bonds, be declared void; and that all new ſhares in their ſtock, above the 6012 allowed by their charter, be alſo made null and void, and the proprietors of them be only deemed creditors of the company for the value thereof. The money advanced on the call made in the year 1708, to be allowed in the preſent call, and the ſurplus to be turned into ſtock. All bargains for ore or lead, &c. ſince the company ſtopt payment, to remain good. The creditors of the company are hereby made members of, and partners with, the company's 6012 ſhares. A deputy-governor and 12 directors to be annually elected for managing the company's affairs. Shares to be transferable. After the death of the duke of Leeds, the preſent governor for life, a governor to be annually elected agreeable to the charter: and no member to be elected governor above one year in four. The company may call in 40*l* per ſhare, for carrying on the buſineſs of the mines. [9 *Ann. c.* 24.] This ſtatute was made in conſequence of the union between the creditors of this company and the proprietors of the ſhares, agreed at a general meeting, which, however, was not ſufficient to keep this ill-conducted company from ſinking, though freſh propoſals were afterwards publiſhed for farther payments on each ſhare, in order to carry on the mines vigorouſly. To ſay all in one word, Sir Humphrey Mackworth and his aſſociates carried their artifices to the very utmoſt; and inſtead of hurting the oppoſites in party, drew in all the zealots of the party diſaffected to the eſtabliſhed conſtitution, to the undoing of many innocent perſons and families.

The cities of London and Weſtminſter, and parts adjacent, being principally ſupplied with coals by ſea, from the counties of Durham and Northumberland, and the town of Newcaſtle upon Tine; and in conſideration that the having them cheap tends greatly to the improvement of the manufactures, and to the increaſe of the commerce and navigation of the kingdom, by breeding many thouſands of ſkilful mariners, the parliament paſſed an act to diſſolve the preſent, and prevent the future, combination of coal-owners, lighter-men, maſters of ſhips, and others, to advance the price of coals, in prejudice of the navigation, trade, and manufactures, of this kingdom, and for the farther encouragement of the coal-trade. And, as for the relief of the poor, and advancing the duties on coals, it is neceſſary the ſame ſhould not be monopolized, it was enacted, that all contracts between coal-owners, lightermen, fitters, maſters of ſhips, crimps, coal-factors, &c. for engroſſing of coals, or for reſtraining any whomſoever from freely ſelling, buying, loading, or unloading, navigating or diſpoſing of coals, in ſuch manner

as they lawfully might, ſhould be deemed illegal, null, and void, to all intents and purpoſes. And that if any coal-owners, lighter-men, &c. ſhould hereafter be knowingly intereſted or concerned in any ſuch contract, he ſhould, if a coal-owner, forfeit L100, if a fitter, L50, if a ſhip-maſter or owner, L20, and the like ſum for every officer, clerk, agent, or ſervant. Fitters, or other perſons vending or delivering coals, were to give ample ſigned certificates to every ſhip-maſter, every voyage, containing the day and year of ſuch loading, the maſter's and ſhip's name, and the exact quantity of coals, with the uſual names of the ſeveral collieries out of which the coals were wrought or gotten, and the price paid by the maſter for each ſort of coals that ſuch fitter hath ſold and loaded on board ſuch ſhip. Such certificate, on the ſhip's arrival at London, to be regiſtered at the cocquet-office appointed by the lord mayor, or at the cuſtom-houſe of any other port. And whoever ſhall refuſe to give ſuch certificate, or give a falſe one, or not regiſter ſuch certificate in forty-eight hours after the ſhip's arrival at London, or other port; or if the perſon keeping the regiſter neglect for twenty-four hours to make ſuch regiſter, or make a falſe entry thereof; or refuſe to ſhew ſuch entry; in each of thoſe caſes, the party offending ſhall forfeit L10. Lighter-men, ſhip-maſters, crimps, or coal-factors, receiving ſalaries or gratuities from coal-owners, either by the year or chaldron, for contracting, buying, vending, or diſpoſing, of any particular ſort of coals, in preference to other ſorts, or for the loading of any ſhip, or for the diſpoſal of the coals from any ſuch ſhip before other ſhips, or who ſhall knowingly ſell any ſort of coals as a ſort which they really are not; for every ſuch offence ſhall forfeit L50. Offenders diſcovering within three months the coal-owners, &c. concerned in ſuch offences, ſhall be indemnified, and receive the reward due to any other diſcoverer. Any number of ſhips, above 50, remaining laden in the port of Newcaſtle or other port, bound for London, above ſeven days, unleſs detained by contrary winds, or want of repairs or convoys, or ſome other unavoidable cauſe, every maſter of ſuch ſhip ſhall forfeit L50. Every crimp, huſband, and coal-agent, vending coals to his own agents, partners, or ſervants, &c. in truſt for his or their own benefit, ſhall forfeit L50. This act to be in force only for three years, and to the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament. [9 *Ann. c.* 28.]

From the judicious Mr Wood's Survey of trade, we learn, that upon a medium of four years, viz. from 1707 to 1710, both included, the exports of merchandize to foreign parts exceeded the imports L2,389,872, or, in other words, England annually gained ſo much by foreign commerce.

In Dr. D' Avenant's report this year to the commiſſioners of public accounts, the proportion of the amount of the cuſtoms received at the

port of London, to the amount of the cuſtoms of all the out-ports, was as L1,268,095 was to L346,081, which is conſiderably above three and a half to one.

The new Britiſh miniſtry had laid a plan in the ſpring of the year 1711, by the ſolicitation of General Nicholſon, for the attack of Placentia in Newfoundland, and, which was of ſtill more importance, for the conqueſt of Quebec and the reſt of Canada, from France. Troops were early enough brought over from Flanders to Portſmouth, and in April 1711 a powerful armament ſailed from Portſmouth, and in May, from Plymouth; the fleet of 12 ſhips of war and 50 tranſports, commanded by Sir Hovendon Walker, and the 6000 land forces by Brigadier Hill. At Boſton in New-England they were detained till the 30th of July, to ſupply themſelves with proviſions, &c. which, it was ſaid, they ought, for diſpatch, to have carried with them from England; ſo that they ſailed into the river St. Laurence conſiderably too late in the year; while General Nicholſon, with 2000 provincials, and 2000 Palatines and Indians, proceeded over land to Albany. When they had got a little way up the river St. Laurence, they met with very tempeſtuous weather; and being driven among rocks and ſmall iſlands, it was not without the greateſt hazard that the ſhips of war eſcaped being loſt; but eight tranſports were caſt away, with the loſs of about 800 men, officers, ſoldiers, and ſailors, and many of the other ſhips were miſerably ſhattered: wherefor it was determined to return to England, which they accordingly did in October the ſame year, without having made any attempt on the French at Placentia.

The Engliſh African company now petitioned the houſe of commons for leave to bring in a bill for the confirmation of their excluſive charter. But the petitions from private traders, as well as from the Britiſh American colonies, for laying that trade quite open, effectually fruſtrated the company's petition. Yet nothing farther was done at this time, in relation to the African trade, except that the houſe of commons addreſſed the queen, to direct that care ſhould be taken of the forts, &c. on the Guinea coaſt, until farther proviſion ſhould be made.

The new prime miniſter of Great Britain, the earl of Oxford, now created lord treaſurer, upon his acceſſion to power, ſaw it to be *his intereſt* to put an end to the war with France and Spain as ſoon as poſſible, and was now actually treating of a ſeparate peace with thoſe powers. Yet, as he could not prudently avoid carrying it on, at leaſt for the year 1711, and until he could more firmly fix himſelf in power, he judged it principally neceſſary to find means to quiet the minds of the monied people by reſtoring the public credit, which was at this time much affected by the late great change in the miniſtry, and had occaſioned a run upon the bank. And as the bulk of the monied men, and of the

proprietors of the national funds, were averſe to his new meaſures, it was his great aim to bring them into good humour.

There happened at this time to be a very large arrear of navy, victualling, and tranſport debentures, and alſo of army debentures, &c. without any eſtabliſhed fund for putting them into a regular courſe of being diſcharged: for this reaſon principally, as well as on account of this change in the miniſtry, they were at a large diſcount, whereby the diſtruſt, which the proprietors had before generally entertained of the new miniſtry, was greatly heightened: if therefor a fund could be eſtabliſhed for the regular payment of the intereſt of that large arrear, and at the ſame time plauſible means could be deviſed to give the creditors the hope of farther advantages by a new and alluring commerce, he prudently thought he ſhould obtain his principal end. We muſt here previouſly obſerve, that ſome of our adventurers to Spaniſh America, in Queen Elizabeth's time, as well as the late buccaneers, had raiſed in the minds of people the higheſt ideas of the advantages of a trade thither; which were farther heightened by obſerving the vaſt riches which France had brought home from thence, ſince the duke of Anjou had ruled in Spain: moreover, it was remembered, that ſo early as the 21ſt year of King James I, a company, or aſſociation, was propoſed in the houſe of commons for a Spaniſh Weſt-India trade: in the reign of King William alſo, as well as in the former part of the preſent reign, during Lord Godolphin's miniſtry, there had been much diſcourſe of an expedition to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, in conjunction with the Dutch, in order to make ſome permanent ſettlement there for commerce. Furthermore, certain ſchemes were handed about and publiſhed for making ſettlements, by force, in the South ſeas of America, in contemplation of the vaſt plenty of gold, ſilver, and rich drugs, &c. there to be found, and of the immenſe profit made by the Spaniards on the European merchandize ſent thither; which conſiderations, joined to the feebleneſs of the Spaniſh government in thoſe parts, were plauſible allurements for a nation of ſo enterpriſing and commercial a genius as ours, to ſtrive for ſharing ſuch advantages at firſt hand. Moreover, to make the new miniſtry's ſeparate negociations with the enemy to be the better reliſhed, it was induſtriouſly given out by their emiſſaries, that Great Britain was to have a conceſſion from Spain of four ports in the South ſeas, on the coaſts of Peru and Chili, for the ſecurity of her commerce there. But, without enlarging farther on ſuch romantic ſchemes, we ſhall now obſerve, that the new prime miniſter procured an act of parliament of the 9th year of Queen Anne, for making good deficiencies, and ſatisfying the public debts; and for erecting a corporation to carry on a trade to the South ſeas; and for the encouragement of the fiſhery; and for liberty to trade in unwrought iron with the ſubjects of Spain; and to repeal the acts for regiſtering ſeamen.

This act firſt ſtates the deficiencies and debts unprovided for, viz. the navy debt, office of ordnance debt, tranſport debt, army debentures, deficient tallies and orders on coals, ſubſidies to the elector of Hanover and duke of Zell, with the intereſt on ſuch of them as carried intereſt, and alſo monies advanced on ſeveral duties on goods imported for the ſervice of the year 1710, and L500,000 to be raiſed for the ſervice of the year 1711; which altogether amounted to L9,471,325, the intereſt whereof, at 6 per cent, was L568,279: 10. For the payment whereof this act makes perpetual the duties on wines, vinegar, tobacco, Eaſt-India goods, wrought ſilks, whale-fins, and ſundry other duties which were appropriated for limited times for other purpoſes, and in the meantime the deficiency of this yearly fund was to be made good by the treaſurer of the navy. The ſurplus, if any, to go towards paying off the above capital, hereby made redeemable on one year's notice after chriſtmas 1716. The ſaid yearly fund to be payable weekly, and to commence from chriſtmas 1711.

I) And to the intent that the trade to the South ſeas may be carried on for the honour and increaſe of the wealth and riches of this realm, her majeſty is hereby impowered to incorporate all the proprietors of the ſaid debts, in the uſual ſtile and form. This act allows the company L8000 per annum for charges of management. And, for better ſecuring the privileges of the bank of England, this new company ſhall not borrow money on their bills or notes on demand, nor at any leſs time than ſix months: neither ſhall they diſcount bills of exchange, nor any other bills or notes whatſoever; nor ſhall keep any books or caſh for any perſons or corporations, excepting their own alone.

II) And whereas it is of the greateſt conſequence to the honour and welfare of this kingdom, and for the increaſe of the ſtrength and riches thereof, and for vending the product and manufacture, goods and merchandize of, or brought into, this kingdom, and the employment of the poor, that a trade ſhould be carried on to the South ſeas and other parts in America, herein after mentioned, which cannot ſo ſecurely and ſucceſsfully be begun and carried on as by a corporation with a joint ſtock, excluſive of all others. For the better encouragement of the members of the ſaid intended company, be it enacted,

III) That this company ſhall, from the 1ſt of Auguſt 1711, be veſted for ever in the ſole trade and traffic, unto and from all the kingdoms, lands, iſlands, cities, towns, ports, creeks, and places, in America, on the eaſt ſide thereof, from the river of Aranoca to the ſouthermoſt part of Terra del Fuego; and on the weſt ſide thereof, from the ſouthermoſt part of the ſaid Terra del Fuego, through the South ſeas, to the northermoſt part of America; and into, unto, and from all countries, &c. within the ſaid limits, which are reputed to belong to the crown of

Spain, or which ſhall hereafter be found out or diſcovered within the ſaid limits, not exceeding 300 leagues from the continent of America, between the ſouthermoſt part of Terra del Fuego and the northermoſt part of America ,on the weſt ſide thereof, except the kingdom of Braſil, and ſuch other places on the ſaid eaſt ſide of America as are now in the actual poſſeſſion of the crown of Portugal, and the country of Surinam in the poſſeſſion of the ſtates-general of the United provinces; it not being intended, that the ſole trade to any part of the eaſt ſide of America, now in the actual poſſeſſion of the crown of Portugal or the ſtates-general, ſhall be granted by this act: but it ſhall be and remain lawful for all her majeſty's ſubjects to trade and traffic thither, as fully and freely, in all reſpects, as they might or could do, if this act had not been made.

IV) None ſhall trade within thoſe limits, but the company, their agents, and factors.

V) The queen may, in her intended charter of incorporation, impower the ſaid company to make laws for the good government of their trade, &c. and to inflict reaſonable penalties, by impriſonments and mulcts, for any breach thereof.

VI) Forfeiture of ſhips and merchandize, and double their value, for any but the company, or thoſe licenced by the company, trading to, or frequenting, any part of their limits; one fourth to the crown; one fourth to the informer; and one half to the company.

VII) The company to be the ſole owners and proprietors of all iſlands, forts, towns, and places, which they ſhall hereafter diſcover within their limits; to hold the ſame of the crown, in free and common ſoccage by fealty, on the annual rent of an ounce of gold, if demanded.

VIII) All prizes of ſhips and merchandize, taken by the company, ſhall be their ſole property: for which end, they may ſeize by force of arms the perſons, with their ſhips and goods, trading within their limits.

IX) The company's bonds ſhall charge as well their annual fund, as their other ſtock, effects, and eſtate; and ſhall be aſſignable by indorſement. And it ſhall be felony to counterfeit their common-ſeal or bonds, or to alter or utter the ſame knowingly.

X) The company not to ſail into any of the before-named limits beyond Terra del Fuego, except only through the ſtraits of Magellan, or elſe round the ſaid Terra del Fuego; nor ſhall ſail from thence into any part of the Eaſt-Indies; neither ſhall they return to Great Britain or to any other part of Europe, Aſia, Africa, or America, by any other way except through the ſaid ſtraits of Magellan, or by Terra del Fuego aforeſaid: neither ſhall they trade in the goods of India, Perſia, or China, nor in any other commodities of the countries within the limits

of the Eaſt-India company. Nor ſhall this new company's ſhips ſail farther weſt from the ſhores of Chili, Peru, Mexico, California, or any other ſhores contained between Terra del Fuego and the northermoſt part of America, than 300 leagues; under forfeiture of ſhips, merchandize, and double the value: one third to the crown, and two thirds to the Eaſt-India company.

XI) And foraſmuch as nothing can more conduce to the increaſe of the ſtrength and riches of this kingdom, and the breeding of able ſeamen, than preſerving and enlarging the fiſhery, the queen may, in her charter to this company, direct a ſtock of 20*l* upon every L100 of the capital ſtock of the company, to be kept apart, and always employed for carrying on, improving, and enlarging, the fiſhery of this realm, or any other fiſhery; ſo as none other of the queen's ſubjects be excluded the fiſhing trade. And ſo as no calls of money for the fiſhery, or for any other parts of the company's trade, be made but by order of a general court, on a fortnight's notice.

XII) Neither the governors nor directors of this company ſhall be capable of being ſuch in the bank, nor in the Eaſt-India company, at the ſame time.

This is the ſubſtance of this famous act, which was then, and is ſtill generally called the earl of Oxford's maſterpiece; although it be nevertheleſs extremely plain, that the main of his ſcheme was borrowed from the memorable act [8, 9 *Gul. III, c.* 19] for doubling the capital of the bank of England in the year 1697; the trade to the South ſeas, and that of the fiſhery, being the only new thoughts, by way of allurement or ſweetner.

The royal charter was dated the 8th of September 1711, incorporating the ſubſcribers of thoſe debts by the name of the governor and company of merchants of Great Britain trading to the South ſeas and other parts of America, and for encouraging the fiſhery. It recites the act of parliament, and grants that the company ſhall have a court of directors, and appoints the manner of their proceedings in that court, and their general courts, their manner of elections, qualification of the electors, and elected, &c. needleſs to be particularly here recited: that defaulters in payments of calls, and all other debtors to the company, ſhall not be permitted to transfer their ſtock, nor to receive their dividends, without the conſent of the court of directors: that the company may appoint courts of judicature in their forts, factories, and ſettlements, for determining cauſes mercantile and maritime, with an appeal to the queen and council; may raiſe a military force for the defence of their forts and ſettlements, as well as for acquiring others within their limits. And by an act of parliament of the 10th of Queen Anne, in 1712, all the powers, privileges of commerce, &c. were made

perpetual to the company, notwithſtanding any redemption of their fund.

Upon the eſtabliſhment of this company with a proper fund, their ſtock advanced very conſiderably in price, and continued gradually to riſe: whereupon, the company's general court, in conſequence of the queen's aſſurance of aſſiſting them with a ſufficient force for eſtabliſhing their trade to the South ſeas, reſolved to prepare a cargo for the year 1712, of L200,000 value.

Accordingly, in July 1712, L200,000 was iſſued in bonds, under the company's common ſeal. Yet, although a ceſſation of arms was, in this ſame year, agreed on with France and Spain, the company did not however judge matters ripe for ſending out any ſhips this year, the peace with France not being actually ſigned till the 31ſt of March 1713, nor with Spain till the 2d of July following.

In November 1711, the prices of the public ſtocks were as follows, viz.

Eaſt-India ſtock, -	124½	South ſea ſtock, -	77½
Bank ſtock, -	111¼	Royal African ſtock,	4½

The late total change of the Britiſh miniſtry had by this time made new and ſtrange alterations of things, formerly in good eſteem. Thus, for one inſtance, the general naturalization of foreign proteſtants, which had been enacted not quite three years before, and by that act was declared to be a likely means of advancing the wealth and ſtrength of a nation, and which had been attempted to be repealed in the preceding year, when the bill was rejected by the houſe of peers, was now, by an act of the 10th of Queen Anne, totally repealed; and the reaſon for that repeal is therein aſſigned to be, 'becauſe divers miſchiefs and inconveniences have been found by experience to follow from the ſame, to the diſcouragement of the natural-born ſubjects of this kingdom, and to the detriment of the trade and wealth thereof.'

That great numbers of ſober and induſtrious ſubjects are the main ſtrength and wealth of a nation, will ſcarcely be controverted by any who underſtand the true and ſolid intereſts of nations and communities. The inſtance of the king of Pruſſia inviting the French proteſtant refugees to ſettle in his dominions, as quoted in the former ſtatute, and their general admiſſion into the United provinces, in both which countries they have been of immenſe benefit to their protectors, have ſtrongly verified the above poſition in the firſt ſtatute.

In Holland, ſays Dr. D'Avenant, in the ſecond part of his *Diſcourſes on the public revenues and trade of England, London*, 1698, *p.* 117th, 'there is reaſon to think, that the national ſtock of that ſtate is increaſed near 8 millions ſince the war; in regard that by the wiſdom of their conſtitution they invite dayly to them, and increaſe in number of inhabitants.'

To what difficulties, and even diſtreſſes, have we very lately been reduced, from a real want of men for our fleets and armies? Yet it ſtill appears, from the diſpoſition of even great numbers of perſons of knowlege and abilities in our own days, that the old prejudices, if we may be allowed to call them ſo, againſt a general naturalization are not as yet eaſily to be overcome.

A ſpirit of gaming prevailed at this time in ſmaller private and unlawful lotteries, under the denomination of ſales of gloves, fans, cards, plate, &c. alſo offices for inſurances on marriages, births, chriſtenings, ſervices, &c. and dayly advertiſements for ſuch were publiſhed in the newſpapers; and alſo, for the improvement of ſmall ſums of money: a clauſe therefor was inſerted in an act of the 10th year of Queen Anne, (intitled, an act for laying additional duties on hides, ſkins, &c.) whereby a penalty of L500 was enacted on any perſons ſetting up ſuch offices, lotteries, &c.

The African company's affairs being much in diſorder, an act was now paſſed 'for making effectual ſuch agreement as ſhould be made 'between the royal African company of England and their creditors.' 'For the benefit of their creditors, it was enacted, 'that two-thirds or 'more of them, in number and value, might on or before the 20th of 'December 1712, under hand and ſeal, conſent to allow them a ſpace 'of time for payment of their debts, or to make any other agreements 'with them reſpecting their debts; which agreements by two thirds, &c. 'as above, ſhould bind all the reſt of thoſe creditors, ſaving always the 'queen's duties.' On this occaſion, there were ſeveral reſolutions of the houſe of commons, which in part teſtify the great importance of this trade, for ſupplying our ſugar and other American colonies; as, that this trade ought to be free for all the queen's ſubjects, in a regulated company; that forts and ſettlements on that coaſt are neceſſary, which forts ſhould be maintained out of the trade; that contracts and alliances are neceſſary to be maintained with the natives; that the plantations ſhould be ſupplied with a ſufficient quantity of negroes at reaſonable rates; that a conſiderable ſtock is neceſſary for carrying on that trade; and, that it is neceſſary that an exportation of at leaſt L100,000 in merchandize, be annually made from Great Britain thither. The firſt ſix of thoſe reſolutions were confirmed, but the ſeventh was rejected; and a bill was thereupon ordered into the houſe, yet it did not ſucceed.

An act of parliament was paſſed, 'for continuing the trade and cor-'poration capacity of the United Eaſt-India company, although their 'fund ſhould be redeemed.' It having been enacted by the ſtatute of the 6th of Queen Anne, 'that upon payment to the company of the 'L3,200,000 due by the public, upon three years notice after lady-day '1726, the benefit of their trade ſhould ceaſe and determine; yet, upon 'the company's humble petition, and to the intent that they and their

'ſucceſſors may be the better encouraged to proceed in their trade, and 'to make ſuch laſting ſettlements for the ſupport and maintenance 'thereof for the benefit of the Britiſh nation;' it was now enacted, 'that not only the proviſo in the above ſtatute for the redemption and 'determination of the duties on ſalt and ſtamps, and of 5 per cent on 'imported Eaſt-India goods, and their yearly fund, but likewiſe of the 'benefit of the trade and of the corporation, is hereby repealed and 'made void; and that the ſaid duties and fund ſhall continue, and the 'ſaid United company, and their ſucceſſors, ſhall have and enjoy ſuch 'part of their yearly ſum of L160,000 as they ſhall hereafter be intitled 'to, and all the benefit of trade, franchiſes, privileges, profits, and ad-'vantages, whatever, granted to the company by former ſtatutes and 'charters: provided, that, at any time, upon three years notice after 'lady-day 1733, and repayment of the ſaid L3,200,000, and of the ſaid 'yearly fund of L160,000, then the ſaid duties and fund ſhall abſolutely 'ceaſe and determine.' [10 *Anne*, *c.* 28.]

We muſt here remark, that although the title of this ſtatute may ſeem to imply a perpetuity in their excluſive trade, even although their fund ſhould be redeemed, as they themſelves alleged in the year 1730, when petitioned againſt to the parliament, as will be ſeen, yet the body (or the enacting clauſes of this act) does not clearly imply ſo much: but, on the contrary, declares, 'that the company ſhall be ſubject, nevertheleſs, to 'the reſtrictions, covenants, and agreements, of former acts and charters 'now in force; and alſo ſubject to the general proviſoes or conditions 'of redemption above named.'

But in the very next ſtatute, ſave one, of this ſame ſeſſion of parliament, the enacting clauſe in behalf of the South-ſea company is unexceptionably clear, viz. 'an act for continuing the trade to the South 'ſeas, granted by an act of the laſt ſeſſion of parliament, although the 'capital ſtock of the ſaid corporation ſhould be redeemed.' This act, after reciting the former one, for the eſtabliſhment of the company, adds, 'and whereas ſome doubts may ariſe concerning the power of re-'demption intended by the ſaid act and charter, which might tend to 'diſcourage the ſaid company in expending ſuch large ſums of money 'as are neceſſary for new ſettlements, and ſettling a trade there, for the 'future benefit of Great Britain; for explanation thereof, be it enact-'ed, that at any time, upon one year's notice after chriſtmas 1716, 'upon repayment of the principal ſum due to the company, then all 'the impoſitions and duties ſhall and may be diſpoſed of by parliament, 'and the yearly fund ſhall ceaſe and determine. But the ſaid corpora-'tion, by the name aforeſaid, after ſuch redemption of the ſaid yearly 'fund, ſhall continue for ever, and have perpetual ſucceſſion; and ſhall 'hold and enjoy all forts, factories, and acquiſitions, that they ſhall erect 'within the limits preſcribed; and ſhall have the ſole benefit of trade

' in and to the South ſeas, and ſuch other power of trade in the fiſhery ' as by the ſaid act is directed, and all other benefits, powers, privileges, ' and advantages, as if no ſuch redemption were had or made.'

In a repreſentation of the Eaſt-India company to the houſe of commons, againſt laying additional duties on calicoes, muſlins, cottons, tea, coffee, and drugs, that company alleged, ' that they annually ex- ' ported to the Eaſt-Indies about L150,000 value in woollen goods and ' other Engliſh product.'

The king of France granted a patent to Mr. Crozat, his ſecretary, for 15 years, of the whole commerce of ' all the lands in North-America, ' lying between New-France on the north, Carolina on the eaſt, and ' New-Mexico on the weſt, down to the gulf of Florida, by the name ' of Louiſiana, ſince named the province of Miſſiſippi.' In the preamble to this famous patent the king ſays, ' that having in the year 1683, ' given orders to the Sieur de la Salle to make diſcovery of the ſaid coun- ' try above deſcribed, he ſucceeded ſo well, that it was now beyond ' doubt that a communication may be practicable between the bay of ' Mexico and New-France, by certain vaſt rivers. This obliged us im- ' mediately on the peace of Ryſwick to ſend thither a colony and gar- ' riſon, which has maintained the poſſeſſion we took, in the ſaid year ' 1683, of lands, coaſts, and iſlands ſituated in the gulf of Mexico, be- ' tween Carolina on the eaſt, and old and new Mexico on the weſt. But, ' war breaking out again in Europe, we have not been able till now to ' render that colony ſo advantageous as we hoped for.' The bounds now granted to Crozat were, ' from the mouth of the river Miſſiſippi, ' in the bay of Mexico, to the lake Illinois northward; and from New- ' Mexico on the weſt, to the lands of the Engliſh of Carolina eaſtward; ' with all rivers, ports, creeks, iſles, &c. by the name of Louiſiana; the ' province, however, to depend on the general government of New- ' France, and be deemed a part thereof. Crozat to enjoy the ſole trade ' of all exportations to, and importations from, this province for 15 years; ' as alſo all mines, minerals, &c. paying a fifth of theſe to the king, ' and an immunity during that term from cuſtom outward and home- ' ward, &c.'

This is the whole of the French king's title to the poſſeſſion of the vaſt country, which, by virtue of his plenary power, he was pleaſed to call his own. Under the year 1698, we have related his firſt attempting a ſettlement there; but as it was only at the mouth of the river Miſſi- ſippi, it properly and ſolely belonged to Spain to oppoſe it, as being within the limits of Florida. From thence France, on any rupture with Spain, may greatly annoy the Spaniſh dominions in old and new Mexico, &c. But when, in the above grant to Crozat, Louis clearly proclaimed his plan of joining Louiſiana to New-France, and thereby hemming in the Engliſh continental colonies between the Miſſiſippi and the ſea eaſt-

ward, what name ſhall we give to our Engliſh counſellors at ſuch a time, who ſupinely (if not treacherouſly) ſuffered ſuch a grant to paſs unoppoſed, when the charters of our king, Charles II, to the lords proprietors of Carolina granted to them all the lands directly weſt to the South ſeas, which conſequently included the country on both ſides the river Miſſiſippi *?

We may, under this year, note, that Eraſmus Philips's State of the nation, in reſpect to her commerce, debts, and money, [*2d edition, p.* 25] makes 'the balance of England's trade, one year with another, to have 'been in our favour, on an average L2,881,357 from 1702 to 1712; ſo 'that, allowing a great abatement for falſe entries, here is room enough 'for the greateſt ſceptic to admit of a large balance, over and above the 'neceſſary expenſes of the war †.

Before we enter upon the formal concluſion of the commercial part of the treaty of Utrecht, we ſhall briefly exhibit the ſubſtance of the new treaty, concluded on the 29th of January 1713, of mutual guarantee for the proteſtant ſucceſſion to the crown of Great Britain, and for the barrier of the ſtates-general of the United Netherlands. The ſtipulation in caſe either ſhould be attacked, was, on the part of Great Britain, 10,000 foot to the aſſiſtance of the ſtates, and by the ſtates 6,000 foot to the aſſiſtance of Great Britain; alſo, 20 ſhips of war by either party. And in caſe of ſudden and imminent danger, each party was obliged (being required by the other) to augment their ſuccours, and to declare war againſt the aggreſſor; and even to join all their forces by land and ſea to thoſe of the party attacked. This treaty repealed one of the ſame kind, made in the year 1709.

We have the beſt authority for obſerving, that the copper manufacture of England was by this time brought to the greateſt degree of perfection; it being expreſsly ſo declared in a ſtatute of the 12th of Queen Anne, for making perpetual the act made in the 13th and 14th years of the reign of King Charles II, intitled, an act for the better relief of the poor of this kingdom, &c. by which, an expired clauſe of an act of the 9th and 10th of King William, enacting, 'that any of his majeſty's 'ſubjects may export from England, copper-bars imported from foreign 'parts; and, upon exportation, ſhall draw back all duties, or vacate the 'ſecurities, ſaving the half of the old ſubſidy, as is uſual in other com-'modities,' was now revived, in the words following, viz. 'which

* Qu. Had Charles more right to make gifts of the country belonging to the native Americans than Louis had? The Spaniards ſay that neither of them had any title to a foot of land in America; and the aboriginal natives with much more truth affirm, that all the white people (with the exception of the Penſylvanians and very few others) are intruders, robbers, and murderers. *M.*

† By Sir Charles Whitworth's *State of the trade of England*, the balance of trade was not near ſo high in any one of the years here condeſcended on, except 1712, when it was L3,114,174, whereof L600,017 was bullion. But the average of the ten years ending with chriſtmas 1712 was L2,178,955, including the bullion exported, which was L464,059 on the average of thoſe ten years: and that being deducted, the real balance was about L1,714,896. *M.*

' clauſe being expired, and foraſmuch as the copper manufacture of this ' kingdom is brought to ſuch perfection, that there is more made than ' can be expended here and in the plantations; be it therefor enact- ' ed, &c. provided nevertheleſs, that no drawback be allowed on the ' exportation of any copper, but ſuch as ſhall be imported from the ' Eaſt-Indies and the coaſt of Barbary only.'

1713.—We are now come to a remarkable epocha of commercial hiſtory; for, on the 11th of April, new ſtile, in the year 1713, Queen Anne's plenipotentiaries at Utrecht ſigned her treaty of peace, and alſo, at the ſame time, a treaty of navigation and commerce, with France; and ratified the ſame in four weeks after. Much has been written and publiſhed againſt the conditions of this peace, which that queen's new miniſters, for their own ſafety, were determined to conclude.

But as commercial matters alone, and ſuch points as are nearly connected therewith, are our proper province, we ſhall content ourſelves with briefly remarking, on what is properly the treaty of peace.

I) That though the French king yielded to the queen of Great Britain, to be poſſeſſed by her in full right for ever, the bay and ſtraits of Hudſon, and all parts thereof, and within the ſame, then poſſeſſed by France, yet leaving the boundaries between Hudſon's Bay and the north parts of Canada, belonging to France, to be determined by commiſſaries within a year, was, in effect, the ſame thing as giving up the point altogether; it being well known to all Europe, that France never permits her commiſſaries to determine ſuch matters, unleſs with great advantage to her. Thoſe boundaries therefor have never yet been ſettled, though both Britiſh and French ſubjects are, by that article, expreſsly debarred from paſſing over the ſame, or thereby to go to each other by ſea or land. Thoſe commiſſaries were likewiſe to ſettle the boundaries between the other Britiſh and French colonies on that continent; which likewiſe was never done.

Commiſſaries were alſo to ſettle, according to the rule of juſtice, the ſatisfaction to be given to the Engliſh Hudſon's Bay company for the damage done to their ſettlements, ſhips, perſons, and goods, by the hoſtile incurſions and depredations of the French, in time of peace. And this too was never effectually done.

II) St. Chriſtophers was the more eaſily yielded to the queen, as the French had before been expelled from it.

III) But although all Nova-Scotia and Acadia, with its antient boundaries, were yielded to Queen Anne for ever; as alſo the city of Port-Royal, now called Annapolis-Royal, and the ſubjects of France were thereby excluded from fiſhing in the ſeas, bays, &c. on the coaſts of Nova-Scotia; yet thoſe antient boundaries were never yet juſtly aſcertained by France; and the ambiguous term, antient boundaries, was, doubtleſs, purpoſely contrived by France, for her future deſigns; and,

inſtead of the true limits of Nova-Scotia, they ſtill pretended, that only the peninſula called Acadia was thereby intended to be yielded up, and not what we called Nova-Scotia, which is properly bounded by the Ocean, and the bay and river of St. Laurence quite up to Canada; which river, we contended, was the antient boundary between Nova-Scotia and New-France or Canada.

IV) But the iſland of Cape-Breton, which was always deemed a part of Nova-Scotia, and which is better ſituated for the fiſhery than any other part of it, and for the French to interrupt our fiſhery and the communication between Newfoundland and our continental colonies, was yielded to France; as alſo all the other iſlands in the mouth of the bay and of the river of St. Laurence, whereby the French were permitted to fortify as they ſhould judge proper.

V) Though Newfoundland, with the adjacent leſſer iſlands, and the town and fortreſs of Placentia, and whatever elſe the French poſſeſſed there, were yielded to Britain; yet thereby, nevertheleſs, the the French were permitted to erect ſtages made of boards, and huts, neceſſary and uſual for drying their fiſh during the fiſhing ſeaſon. The French therefor had liberty to catch fiſh, and to dry them on the ſhore, ſtretching from Cape-Bonaviſta to the northern point of the iſland, and and from thence running ſouth by the weſt-ſide as far as Point Riche; thus, having all the advantages of Newfoundland, (which iſland, it is well known, can never be made a profitable colony or plantation) without the expenſe of holding forts and garriſons, wiſely left to Great Britain alone.

VI) The French of Canada were to give no hindrance nor moleſtation to the five nations of Iroquois Indians ſubject to the dominion of Great Britain, nor to the other natives of America who are friends to the ſame. Yet it is notorious what violence the Canadians and French have ſince committed againſt thoſe Indian nations, ſubjects of the crown of Great Britain, and what arts, at other times, they have practiſed to draw them off from their allegiance.

By the ninth Article, France agrees to the intire demolition of all the fortifications, and of the port, of Dunkirk, and all its ſluices, moles, &c. within five months; and that they ſhould never be reſtored nor rebuilt on any pretence whatever.

The articles of the treaty of navigation and commerce between Great Britain and France are 41 in number; moſt of which being in the cuſtomary form, we ſhall paſs over: but we could not omit our animadverſions on the 8th and 9th articles, as they were ſo extraordinary in themſelves, and as they occaſioned ſo great a ſtir and uneaſineſs at that time, as to bring the whole treaty of commerce to miſcarry then, and ever ſince.

' Article VIII) That all the ſubjects of the queen of Great Britain ' and of the moſt chriſtian king, in all countries and places ſubject to ' their power on each ſide, as to all duties, impoſitions, or cuſtoms ' whatſoever, concerning perſons, goods, merchandize, ſhips, freights, ' ſeamen, navigation, and commerce, ſhall uſe and enjoy the ſame pri- ' vileges, liberties, and immunities, at leaſt, and have the like favour in ' all things, as well in the courts of juſtice, as in all ſuch things as relate ' either to commerce, or to any other right whatſoever, which any fo- ' reign nation, the moſt favoured, has, uſes, and enjoys, or may here- ' after have, uſe, and enjoy.

IX) ' That within the ſpace of two months after, a law ſhall be made ' in Great Britain, whereby it ſhall be ſufficiently provided, that no ' more cuſtoms or duties be paid for goods and merchandize brought ' from France into Great Britain than what are payable for goods and ' merchandize of the like nature, imported into Great Britain from ' any other country in Europe; and that all laws made in Great Bri- ' tain, ſince the year 1664, for prohibiting the importation of any goods ' and merchandize coming from France, which were not prohibited ' before that time, be repealed: the general tarif made in France, on ' the 18th of September, in the ſaid year 1664, ſhall take place there ' again, and the duties payable in France by the ſubjects of Great ' Britain for goods imported and exported, ſhall be paid according ' to the tenor of the tarif above mentioned, and ſhall not exceed the ' rule therein ſettled, in the provinces whereof mention is there made; ' and in the other provinces the duty ſhall not be payable otherwiſe ' than according to the rule at that time preſcribed; and all prohibi- ' tions, tarifs, edicts, declarations, or decrees, made in France ſince ' the ſaid tarif of the year 1664, and contrary thereunto, in reſpect ' to the goods and merchandize of Great Britain, ſhall be repealed. ' But whereas it is urged on the part of France, that certain mer- ' chandizes, that is to ſay, manufactures of wool, ſugar, ſalted fiſh, and ' the product of whales, be excepted out of the rule of the above-men- ' tioned tarif, and that likewiſe other heads of matters belonging to this ' treaty remain, which, having been propoſed on the part of Great Bri- ' tain, have not yet been mutually adjuſted; a ſpecification of all which ' is contained in a ſeparate inſtrument, ſubſcribed by the ambaſſadors ' extraordinary and plenipotentiaries on both ſides; it is hereby provid- ' ed and agreed, that, within two months from the exchange of the ratifi- ' cations of this treaty, commiſſaries on both ſides ſhall meet at London, ' to conſider of, and remove, the difficulties concerning the merchan- ' dizes to be excepted out of the tarif of the year 1664; and concerning ' the other heads, which, as is above ſaid, are not yet wholely adjuſted. ' And, at the ſame time, the ſaid commiſſaries ſhall likewiſe endeavour ' (which ſeems to be very much for the intereſt of both nations) to have

'to have the methods of commerce, on one part and on the other, more 'thoroughly examined, and to find out and eſtabliſh juſt and beneficial 'means on both ſides, for removing the difficulties in this matter, and 'for regulating the duties mutually. But it is always underſtood and 'provided, that all and ſingular the articles of this treaty do, in the 'meanwhile, remain in their full force; and eſpecially that nothing be 'deemed, under any pretence whatſoever, to hinder the benefit of the 'general tarif of the year 1664, from being granted to the ſubjects of 'her royal majeſty of Great Britain, and the ſaid Britiſh ſubjects, from 'having and enjoying the ſame, without any delay or tergiverſation, 'within the ſpace of two months after a law is made in Great Britain 'as above-ſaid; in as ample manner and form as the ſubjects of any na- 'tion the moſt favoured might have and enjoy the benefit of the afore- 'ſaid tarif; any thing to be done or diſcuſſed by the ſaid commiſſaries 'to the contrary in anywiſe notwithſtanding.'

When theſe two articles came to be known by the merchants of Great Britain, they were received with the utmoſt ſurpriſe and indignation; and the clamour was loud and univerſal, inſomuch, that it occaſioned a famous weekly paper to be publiſhed, (the joint work of a number of eminent merchants) with the title of the Britiſh merchant, or commerce preſerved *, in defence of our commerce with Portugal, and againſt confirming the 8th and 9th articles by law. There were alſo ſundry ſeparate tracts publiſhed on the ſame ſide. On the other hand, thoſe in power found tools to juſtify their conduct; and particularly Daniel Defoe, who publiſhed a weekly reply, called Mercator, or commerce retrieved. But the former having truth and facts on its ſide, clearly evinced to the world, that a compliance with thoſe two articles would effectually ruin the commerce we carried on to Portugal, the very beſt branch of all our European commerce †. That the 8th article put France on an equal footing with Portugal, or any other of our beſt allies, in point of commerce: but that the 9th article ſtruck more directly at the very root of our Portugal trade; ſeeing, by introducing the tarif of 1664, the wines and brandies of France would be poured in upon us, inſtead of thoſe of Portugal; though the later took off great quantities of our woollen, iron, linen, &c. manufactures, and thereby ſent us a large yearly balance of money over and above all the wines, oils, and fruits, which we took from them.

On the other hand, by agreeing to the two articles, and to the tarif of 1664, France would probably gain annually from Great Britain above a million ſterling, not only from the vaſt conſumption of their alluring

* Since collected, and publiſhed in 3 vols. 8vo. *A.*

† It has been ſince diſcovered, that there may be better branches of European commerce than that of Portugal. Indeed, it is not eaſy to conceive, how an opinion ſhould ſo long have prevailed, that the trade of ſo ſmall a country as Portugal ſhou'd be the moſt valuable of all our branches of commerce. *M.*

wines and brandies, but of numberleſs other articles of ſilk, lace, linen, needle-work, and paper, beſide fruits, &c. which the authors of the Britiſh merchant made out thus, viz.

Our imports from France, upon agreeing to thoſe two articles, would annually amount to - - - - -	L1,712,559 7 0
And our exports thither would not exceed -	270,181 14 11
Annual balance againſt, or loſs to, Great Britain	L1,442,377 12 1

while, on the other hand, the French had ſo effectually contrived the excluſion of our woollen and iron manufactures, and almoſt every other Britiſh production, that our ſhips would have had very little to do in the French ports but to load home their commodities.

This is, in brief, the ſum of this mercantile controverſy. When it was brought into parliament, it was ſo apparent that our trade with France had ever been a ruinous one, and that if, in conſequence of accepting the 8th and 9th articles, the Britiſh parliament ſhould conſent to reduce the high duties and take off the prohibitions ſo prudently laid on French commodities, it would effectually ruin the very beſt branches of our commerce, and would therefor deprive many hundred thouſand manufacturers of their ſubſiſtence; which was alſo ſupported by petitions from many parts of the kingdom: that, although a great majority of that houſe of commons was in other reſpects cloſely attached to the miniſtry, the bill for agreeing to the two articles was rejected by a majority of nine voices, after the moſt eminent merchants had been heard at the bar of that houſe, to the great joy of the whole trading part of the nation, and of all other impartial people. Thus the commerce between us and France has ever ſince remained in a kind of a ſtate of prohibition on both ſides, eſpecially with reſpect to the principal points. Though it is much to be feared, that by the clandeſtine importation of French liquors, cambrics, fruits, embroideries, lace, &c. we are ſtill conſiderable loſers on the balance with that nation; as they will take few or none of our manufactures, and but little of our product; tobacco, lead, tin, coals, and ſome few other inconſiderable articles, excepted.

Ill as our miniſtry managed at this time in reſpect of commerce, we ought to do them the juſtice to acknowlege their circumſpection in regard to the two articles of the treaty with King Philip of Spain, viz. part of article 8th. ‘ Neither the catholic king, nor any of his heirs and ‘ ſucceſſors, ſhall ſell, yield, pawn, transfer, or by any means, or under ‘ any name, alienate from them and the crown of Spain, to the French, ‘ or to any other nation whatſoever, any lands, dominions, or territories, ‘ belonging to Spain in America: on the contrary, that the Spaniſh ‘ dominions there may be preſerved whole and entire, the queen of

' Great Britain engages to endeavour to give aſſiſtance to the Spaniards, ' that the antient limits of their dominions in the Weſt-Indies be ' reſtored and ſettled as they ſtood in the time of the catholic king, ' Charles II.'

Article X) ' That all and ſingular the ſubjects of each kingdom of ' Great Britain and Spain, ſhall, in all countries and places, on both ' ſides, have and enjoy, at leaſt, the ſame privileges, liberties, and im- ' munities, as to all duties, impoſitions, or cuſtoms whatſoever, relating ' to perſons, goods, and merchandize, ſhips, freight, ſeamen, navigation, ' and commerce; and ſhall have the like favour in all things as the ſub- ' jects of France or of any other foreign nation the moſt favoured, have, ' poſſeſs, or enjoy.'

By the ſaid tenth article, Spain yielded for ever to the Britiſh crown the full and entire property of the town, port, and caſtle of Gibraltar, ' but without any territorial juriſdiction, or any open communication ' by land with the country round about; whereby abuſes and frauds ' may be avoided by importing any kind of goods: yet, as the com- ' munication by ſea with the coaſt of Spain may not at all times be ' ſafe and open, and thereby it may happen that the garriſon and other ' inhabitants may be brought to great ſtraits; and as it is the intention ' of the catholic king, that only fraudulent importations of goods ſhould ' be hindered by an inland communication; it was therefor now provid- ' ed, that in ſuch caſes it may be lawful to purchaſe, for ready money, in ' the neighbouring territories of Spain, proviſions, &c. for the uſe of the ' garriſon, ſo as no merchandize be imported by Gibraltar into Spain; ' otherwiſe they ſhall be confiſcated.' We may here, however, obſerve, that had Gibraltar had a ſmall territory annexed to it on the land ſide, the Spaniards could not have ſince erected the fort on the iſthmus, ſo near the town, as to prove ſome obſtruction to ſhips from anchoring in time of war farther up the bay.

The eleventh article with Spain yields to the Britiſh crown the property of the iſland of Minorca, with the port and forts of Port Mahon, for ever.

But with reſpect to Gibraltar and Minorca it was expreſsly ſtipulated, ' that in caſe it ſhall ſeem meet hereafter to the crown of Great Britain ' to grant, ſell, or alienate, the propriety of either, the preference of ' having the ſame ſhall always be given to the crown of Spain before ' any others.'

The twelfth article grants ' to her Britannic majeſty, and to the com- ' pany of her ſubjects appointed for that purpoſe (the South-ſea com- ' pany) as well the ſubjects of Spain as all others being excluded, the ' contract for introducing negroes into ſeveral parts of the dominions ' of his catholic majeſty in America (commonly called, *El pacto de el aſſiento* ' *de negros)* at the rate of 4,800 negroes yearly for the ſpace of 30 years

' ſucceſſively, beginning from 1ſt of May 1713, on the ſame conditions ' on which the French company had formerly enjoyed it *.'

It is ſaid, that the Britiſh miniſters at firſt demanded a free trade for Great Britain to Spaniſh America; but that was a mere illuſion, ſince it would have inflamed the jealouſy of all the reſt of Europe. Yet ſurely, conſidering the ſervice they had done to King Philip, they might have obtained a more favourable aſſiento; ſince it was confeſſed, that all former aſſientiſts had actually been loſers, although on as good terms as the preſent aſſiento, excepting only the annual ſhip, which King Philip allowed to the South-ſea company, for the term of 30 years, of 500 tons burden, Spaniſh meaſure, wherewith they were to trade to Spaniſh America; but of which the catholic king reſerved one fourth of the gain, beſides 5 per cent on the other three fourths. Thus did our miniſters, in this reſpect at leaſt, ſuffer us and the South-ſea company to be outwitted by the Spaniſh miniſters: it was univerſally known, that the Portugueſe company firſt, and next the French one, were undone by their aſſiento contracts for ſupplying the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies with negroes; and this ſugar-plumb of an annual trading ſhip, granted to our company, was too much clogged with difficulties to prove of any certain advantage, more eſpecially conſidering how much the court of Madrid had it in their power to ſuſpend the licence for any ſuch annual ſhip, &c. as they often practiſed, and to ſeize on the company's effects in America at pleaſure.

Part of the fifteenth article: ' and whereas it is inſiſted on the part of ' Spain, that certain rights of fiſhing at the iſland of Newfoundland do ' belong to the Guipuſcoans, or other ſubjects of the catholic king; ' her Britannic majeſty conſents and agrees, that all ſuch privileges as ' the Guiſpuſcoans and other people of Spain are able to make claim ' to by right, ſhall be allowed and preſerved to them †.'

In the meanwhile the earl of Oxford, lord high treaſurer of Great Britain and governor of the South ſea company, in a general court of that company, on the 2d of June, 1713, acquainted them, that her majeſty had preſented the company with the aſſiento contract; and had alſo procured for them two licences from the king of Spain, for two ſhips of 600 tons each, for carrying merchandize the firſt year to the northern ports of the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, beſides the annual ſhip of 500 tons. Whereupon the company, fluſhed with ſuch pompous appearances, iſſued L200,000 more in bonds, for carrying on their trade with vigour: and her majeſty lent two of her own ſhips, to be the two firſt licenced

* Here it was intended to inſert the South ſea company's aſſiento contract. But as all that company's mercantile concerns are long ago laid aſide, it is needleſs to enlarge on a ſubject not likely to be ever renewed. *A.*

† This point has never yet been clearly aſcertained, and probably never will. *A.*

ſhips for carrying over the company's goods, factors, and ſervants. But yet the court of directors were not a little ſurpriſed to find, that the queen had reſerved to herſelf, or to her aſſigns, another quarter part of the aſſiento; beſide her grant of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to Don Manuel Manaſſes Gilligan, the Spaniſh agent at her court, out of the clear profits of the annual ſhip: yet ſhe afterward reſigned her quarter part of the aſſiento to the company, on condition that they ſhould, beſides the above grant to Gilligan, aſſign $21\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the clear profits of the annual ſhip to perſons whom ſhe would afterward name, who were then ſaid to be Lord Bolingbroke, Lady Maſham, and Arthur Moore, Eſq. Such were then the wild and ill-grounded expectations from this new trade; yet, on better advice, the queen gave up entirely to the company her part of the ſuppoſed profits, to the no ſmall mortification of the above and other courtiers, as was then commonly reported, and generally believed.

On the 30th of April 1713 the houſe of commons, after reading the ſeveral petitions of the ſeparate traders to the coaſt of Guinea within the limits of the royal African company, once more reſolved, that the trade to Africa ought to be free and open to all the queen's ſubjects, under ſuch proper regulations as ſhould ſubject that trade to duties for maintaining its forts and ſettlements. Yet a bill for this purpoſe was ſoon after dropped in the houſe of peers.

Peter, the czar of Muſcovy, in completion of his plan for a new emporium at St. Peterſburgh, now removed the bulk of the commerce of Archangel thither, and alſo tranſplanted 30,000 people from his antient capital city of Moſcow, and obliged more of his bojars (or nobles) to erect palaces therein, as he alſo did one for himſelf, making St. Peterſburgh henceforth his uſual reſidence.

The great importance of the ſilk manufactures of England, at this time, eminently appeared from a petition to parliament by the weaver's company of London in behalf of thoſe manufactures. They therein ſet forth, that by the encouragement of the crown, and of divers acts of parliament, the ſilk manufacture is come to be above twenty times as great as it was in the year 1664: and that all ſorts of black and coloured ſilks, gold and ſilver ſtuffs, and ribands, are now made here as good as in France. That black ſilk for hoods and ſcarves, not made here above 25 years ago, hath amounted annually to above L300,000 worth, for ſeveral years paſt, which before were imported from France; which increaſe of the ſilk manufacture hath cauſed an increaſe of our exportation of woollen goods to Turkey, Italy, &c.

This petition was purpoſely levelled againſt the 8th and 9th articles of the commercial treaty with France, the ratification of which propoſed by parliament would, in place of our ſilk manufacture, have introduced an inundation of French ſilks, ribands, embroideries, &c. whereby our Spitalfields and Canterbury looms would have ſtood ſtill, and our

moſt profitable trade in woollen goods, &c. with Portugal, would have been utterly loſt.

During the two laſt wars with France the manufacturers of England did irreparable damage to the French, by imitating them in, and even out-doing them in, many of their beſt manufactures, wherewith they had before ſupplied almoſt all the reſt of Europe. Neceſſity, indeed, firſt prompted our people thereunto, in which they were much aſſiſted by the French refugees, as we have obſerved more at large under the years 1685 and 1692.

By the treaty of Utrecht, between France and Portugal, the former yields up all pretenſions to the lands of Cape-Nord, ſituated between the river of Amazons and that of Japoc or Vincent Pinſon. And the French king thereby declares, that both ſides of the river Amazons, as well ſouth as north, belong to Portugal; and he deſiſts from any claim to navigation on the river Amazons, and from all right to any other domain of his Portugueſe majeſty, as well in America as in all other parts of the world. Neither ſhall the French of Cayenne paſs the river of Vincent Pinſon for traffic, nor ſhall buy ſlaves in the territories of Cape-Nord. Nor, on the other hand, ſhall any Portugueſe go to trade at Cayenne. Of all which, the queen of Great Britain is hereby conſtituted guarantee. As this ſhort treaty ſhews that France, at that time, made pretenſions to ſome part of that continent, ſo it may hereafter be uſeful to illuſtrate ſome commercial point or concern in that part of the world.

By the treaty between France and the king of Pruſſia at Utrecht, Louis recogniſes the king of Pruſſia's title and dignity as a king, and acknowleges him ſovereign lord of the principality of Neufchatel and Valengin, to which Louis grants the ſame commercial privileges as are enjoyed by the reſt of the Helvetic nation; and, in his grandſon's name, he confirms to him the upper quarter of Gelderland; which ceſſion, however, at firſt alarmed the Dutch not a little, on account of their trade on the Meuſe, and their communication with Maeſtrecht, Liege, Huy, and Namur. But there was no remedy.

On the other hand, the king of Pruſſia thereby renounced all right to the principality of Orange.

By the 10th article of Louis's treaty with the duke of Savoy, it was ſtipulated, that the ordinary commerce of Italy, between France and that duke, be managed by the way of Suza, Savoy, and Pont de beau Voiſin, and Villa-Franca; each paying the duties and cuſtoms on both ſides, and the French ſhips paying the antient duty, called the duty of Villa Franca.

In the French king's treaty with the ſtates-general of the United Netherlands, at Utrecht, he engages, by the 32d article, not to claim

nor accept any other advantage, either for himſelf or his ſubjects, in commerce and navigation, whether in Spain or in the Spaniſh Indies, beſide that which he enjoyed during the reign of the late King Charles II, or that ſhall be likewiſe granted to every other trading nation.

By their proper treaty of commerce, navigation, and marine affairs with France, (conſiſting of 44 articles, beſide a ſeparate one,) which was to laſt for 25 years; the 9th article grants equal liberty to the Dutch as to the ſubjects of France, to carry merchandize from the Levant to Marſeilles, as well by their own ſhips as in French ſhips, without being ſubject to the 20 per cent, unleſs in caſes where the French themſelves are ſubject to it. By the 10th, the Dutch may freely import ſalted herrings into France, without being liable to repackage. By the 19th, contraband goods are deſcribed to be all ſorts of fire-arms and military utenſils; alſo ſaltpetre, horſes, ſaddles, holſters, belts, &c. But by the 20th, wheat and other corn, pulſe, oil, wine, and ſalt, were not to be deemed contraband goods, nor were any other things, in general, which tended to the nouriſhment of life, but ſhall remain free, as other merchandize, and may be tranſported even to enemies, excepting to towns actually beſieged or blocked up. By the 29th, privateers ſhall give 15,000 livres tournois, ſecurity for their not committing diſorders, &c.

The reſt of the articles relate to a multitude of points uſual in all other treaties of commerce, concerning mutual liberty of commerce, reception in their ports, captures, contraband goods, tolls, damages, ſearching ſhips for contraband goods, arreſts, impoſts, paſſports, goods belonging to either party found in enemies ſhips, ſeizures, &c. and therefor needleſs to be particularized. But the ſeparate article ſtipulates, 'that the impoſition of 50 ſols per ton, laid in France upon the 'ſhips of foreigners, ſhall entirely ceaſe for the future with reſpect to 'all Dutch ſhips arriving in France, either loaded or in ballaſt; except-'ing only in one particular caſe, viz. when Dutch ſhips ſhall load mer-'chandize in one port of France, and tranſport them to another port 'of France to unload them.'

In July 1713, there was a temporary or proviſional contract ſigned at Utrecht between Great Britain and the ſtates-general, reſpecting the commerce of the Spaniſh Netherlands, now unneceſſary to be ſpecified.

To conclude all that relates to the famous grand alliance againſt France, the Britiſh miniſtry, by their ſeparate peace, having left and abandoned the emperor and empire to ſhift for themſelves, it was eaſy to gueſs they would not long hold out againſt the power of France and Spain. The emperor, therefor, for himſelf, in March 1714, (N. S.) concluded, at Raſtadt, a peace with France (the French king being em-

powered all along to treat for his grandſon) on as good terms as could well have been expected in his then ſituation, being obliged to leave Landau and Straſburg in the poſſeſſion of France, and to conſent that Arras, Douay, and Liſle, ſhould alſo remain to France, and to reſtore to the electors of Cologne and Bavaria every thing they before enjoyed. And, in September following, a ſolemn treaty of peace was concluded at Baden between the emperor and empire and the French king, which confirmed what was ſtipulated by that of Raſtadt, relating to the frontier towns in Alſace and the Netherlands, and to the reſtoration of the above electors, as alſo recognizing the electoral dignity to the houſe of Brunſwic-Lunenburg; confirmed the former intercourſe of commerce between France and the empire, and the rights, commerce, and privileges, of the imperial cities and Hanſe towns; as alſo what the emperor then poſſeſſed in Italy, the neutrality of which country was alſo confirmed. But nothing is remarkable therein, in relation to commercial hiſtory.

This year the former treaties between the ſtates-general of the United provinces of the Netherlands, and the burgomaſters and common council of the free and imperial city of Lubec, for the preſervation of the freedom of commerce, were renewed for fifty years; to which defenſive treaty and confederacy, any other of the Hanſe towns were permitted to accede. This treaty was occaſioned by the wars then raging between the northern potentates bordering on the Baltic ſhores.

In conſequence of an act of parliament [12 *Ann. c.* 11] for raiſing L1,200,000 for the public ſervice, by circulating a farther ſum in exchequer bills, &c. the bank of England undertook the circulation of that ſum in exchequer bills, for which they were to have L3 per cent per annum. And, to enable the bank to perform that circulation, by exchanging the bills for ready money on demand, this act allows them L8000 yearly, over and above the L45,000 allowed them annually by the 9th of the queen, till all the preſent and former exchequer bills ſhall be paid off and cancelled; for which end the bank might call in money from their proprietors, which might be called additional ſtock. The bank likewiſe was to continue a corporation, till all ſhould be paid off and cancelled. Secondly, on twelve months notice, after the 1ſt of Auguſt 1742, and re-payment of the yearly ſund, and of the original capital of L1,600,000, then the corporation of the bank was to ceaſe and determine *.

* It is worthy of notice, that Sicily, which apparently was the original mother of all the ſugar-canes, which have ſtocked the Weſt-Indies, uſually received ſugars at this time from Britain. This remarkable effect of induſtry and commercial enterpriſe on the one hand, and of ſloth and ſuperſtition on the other, appears in a repreſentation to the board of trade by the merchants trading to Sicily, dated 27th October 1713. *M.*

1714.—In the beginning of the year 1714 the queen's declining ſtate of health, and the great uneaſineſs of the men of property on the apprehenſion of her death, occaſioned a conſiderable fall in the prices of the public funds, viz. bank ſtock from 126 to 116; South-ſea ſtock from 94½ to 85. There was alſo, for ſome days, a great run on the bank: yet national credit very ſoon returned to its former ſtate, and even gradually advanced higher than before; though, at the death of that princeſs, the national debt amounted to about 50 millions of money.

Upon the petition of Mr. Whiſton and Mr. Ditton, ſupported by the opinions of the great Sir Iſaac Newton and Dr. Halley, in the year 1714 the Britiſh parliament paſſed an act [12 *Ann. ſeſſ.* 2, *c.* 15] for providing a public reward for the diſcovery of the longitude at ſea. The preamble obſerves, that 'it is well known by all that are acquainted with the art of navigation, that nothing is ſo much wanted and deſired at ſea as the diſcovery of the longitude, for the ſafety and quickneſs of voyages, the preſervation of ſhips, and of the lives of men: and whereas, in the judgment of able mathematicians and navigators, ſeveral methods have already been diſcovered, true in theory, though very difficult in practice, ſome of which, there is reaſon to expect, may be capable of improvement, ſome already diſcovered may be propoſed to the public, and others may be invented hereafter. And whereas ſuch diſcovery would be of particular advantage to the trade of Great Britain, and very much for the honour of this kingdom: but, beſides the great difficulty of the thing itſelf, partly for the want of ſome public reward as an encouragement, and partly for want of money for trials and experiments neceſſary thereunto, no ſuch inventions or propoſals, hitherto made, have been brought to perfection.' It was therefor now enacted, that the lord high admiral, the ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, and ſundry other great officers, by virtue of their offices, and ſeveral other perſons, ſhould be commiſſioners for trying and judging of all propoſals, experiments, and improvements, relating to the ſame; who, being ſatisfied of the probability of ſuch diſcovery, ſhould certify the ſame to the commiſſioners of the navy, who were empowered to make out a bill for any ſum, not exceeding L2000, which the commiſſioners for the longitude ſhould think neceſſary for making the experiments. And the ultimate reward offered to the diſcoverer of the longitude, if he determines it to one degree, or 60 geographical miles, was L10,000, if to two thirds of a degree, L15,000, and if to half a degree, L20,000, &c.

All that needs farther to be ſaid on this moſt important ſubject, is, that part of the L2000 has been already expended on fruitleſs experiments; and that many are of opinion the longitude never can be found. But who can pronounce with certainty on a ſubject of this nature, ſince many uſeful diſcoveries have, at different times, been made on other points of great importance, when leaſt expected?

Another ſtatute made in the ſame ſeſſion, [*c.* 16] for reducing the rate of intereſt without any prejudice to parliamentary ſecurities, has the following preamble, viz. 'Whereas the reducing of intereſt to ten, 'and from thence to eight, and thence to ſix, in the hundred, hath from 'time to time, by experience, been found very beneficial to the ad-'vancement of trade and improvement of lands; it is become abſo-'lutely neceſſary to reduce the high rate of intereſt of 6 per cent to a 'nearer proportion with the intereſt allowed for money in foreign 'ſtates.' It was therefor enacted, that from the 29th day of September, 1714, no perſon ſhould, directly nor indirectly, take for the loan of monies, goods, or merchandize, above the value of L5 for the forbearance of L100 for a year; and that all bonds, contracts, and aſſurances whatſoever, made after that day, for payment of any principal or money to be lent, or covenanted to be performed upon, or for any uſury,* 'whereupon, or whereby, there ſhall be reſerved or taken above the rate 'of L5 in the hundred, ſhould be utterly void. That all perſons who 'ſhould after that time receive, by means of any corrupt bargain, 'loan, exchange, chevizance, ſhift, or intereſt of any wares, merchan-'dize, or other thing whatever, or by any deceitful way or means, or 'by any covin, engine, or deceitful conveyance for the forbearing or 'giving day of payment, for one whole year, for their money or other 'thing, above the ſum of L5 for L100 for a year, ſhould forfeit for 'every ſuch offence the triple value of the monies or other things ſo 'lent, bargained, &c. And all ſcriveners, brokers, ſolicitors, and driv-'ers of bargains for contracts, who ſhould, after that day, receive above '5*s* for negotiating the loan of L100 for a year, or above 12*d* over and 'above the ſtamp-duties, for renewing the bond or bill for loan, or for 'any counter bond or bill concerning the ſame, ſhould forfeit for every 'ſuch offence L20, with coſts of ſuit, and ſuffer impriſonment for half 'a year.'

Another ſtatute of the ſame ſeſſion, [*c.* 18] for preſerving all ſuch ſhips and the goods thereof, which ſhall happen to be forced on ſhore, or ſtranded, upon the coaſts of this kingdom, or any other of her majeſty's dominions, confirmed the ſtatute of the third of King Edward I, concerning wrecks at ſea, which enacts, that where a man, a dog, or a cat, eſcape quick (alive) out of the ſhip, neither that ſhip nor barge, nor any thing in them, ſhall be adjudged a wreck; but the goods ſhall be ſaved for the proprietors, &c. And alſo a ſtatute of the 4th of that king, that if any lay hands on the wreck, he ſhall be attached by ſufficient pledges, and the price of the wreck ſhall be valued and delivered to the next town. And whereas great complaints have been made by both Britiſh and foreign merchants, that their ſhips, being unfortunate-

* The word *uſury* is ſtill retained in this act as the legal term for a fair intereſt of money, though in common acceptation it applies only to intereſt above the lawful rate.

ly run on ſhore near home, have been barbarouſly plundered, and their cargoes embezzled; and when any part thereof has been ſaved, it has been ſwallowed up by exorbitant demands for ſalvage. It was now enacted, that the ſheriffs, juſtices of the peace, and magiſtrates of port-towns, alſo conſtables, tything-men, and officers of the cuſtoms, ſhall, upon application made to them by the concerned, command the conſtables to ſummon as many men as neceſſary for aſſiſting in the preſervation of ſuch ſhip in diſtreſs, and the goods thereof; and if any queen's ſhip or merchant-ſhip be riding at anchor near the wreck, their aſſiſtance ſhall be demanded; or, neglecting ſuch aſſiſtance, the commander of ſuch ſhip ſhall forfeit L100 to the proprietors of the ſhip in diſtreſs. Secondly, for the encouragement of ſuch as ſhall aſſiſt, the collectors of the cuſtoms, and the commander of ſuch ſhip, and all others aſſiſting, ſhall be paid a reaſonable reward for the ſame from the proprietors. And, in default of ſuch reward, the ſaid ſhip or goods, ſo ſaved, ſhall remain in the cuſtody of ſuch officer of the cuſtoms until all charges be paid, and ſuch reaſonable gratification given, or ſecurity for it, of which three neighbouring juſtices ſhall adjuſt the *quantum* to be paid. Goods, not claimed by the right owners in twelve months, ſhall be ſold, and periſhable goods immediately; and the value of both ſhall be lodged in the exchequer till claimed by the right owners. Perſons entering a diſtreſſed ſhip without proper leave, or obſtructing the ſaving of ſhip or goods, or, when ſaved, defacing the marks of ſuch goods, ſhall make double ſatisfaction, or be ſent to an houſe of correction for twelve months: and ſuch perſons, ſo entering the ſhip without leave, may be legally repelled by force. Any perſon, carrying off goods without leave, ſhall forfeit triple the value. Making holes in any ſhip in ſuch diſtreſs, or ſtealing the pump thereof, or otherwiſe contributing to its deſtruction, ſhall be felony without benefit of clergy.

Proviſo, for ſaving the right of the crown, or of patentees, or of lords of manors, to any wreck, or to goods that ſhall be flotſam, jetſam, or lagan, (i. e. floating, thrown on land, or lying on the ſhores,) within their reſpective juriſdictions.

By an act of the 4th of King George, this ſtatute was made perpetual: and for effectually preventing wilfully caſting away, burning, or otherwiſe deſtroying, ſhips by the owners, maſters, or mariners, it was hereby enacted, that perſons ſo doing to the prejudice of underwriters of policies of inſurance, or of merchants lading goods in ſuch ſhips, ſhall ſuffer death.

Yet, we are truely ſorry to remark, that, notwithſtanding this good law, there have been frequently very barbarous infractions of it, more eſpecially on the farther ſouth-weſtern ſhores of England, which ſeem to want a ſtronger enforcement: although this act directs it to be read

four times yearly in all the parish churches and chapels of all sea-port towns on the sea-coasts of the kingdom.

As we have formerly observed, that the post-office revenue is, in some sort, a kind of politico-commercial pulse or test of a nation's prosperity, we shall here exhibit a state thereof for some years past, as the materials have fallen in our way.

The author of the Royal treasury of England, (*octavo*, 1725, *p.* 307), says, 'that, when an act of parliament passed in 1660, for establishing a 'general post-office in England, it then brought in a revenue of L21,000 'per annum *.'

The rates of postage continued the same till the end of 1710: we have noted, under the year 1711, that on a medium of three years, 1708-10, the net income was L56,664, (according to D'Avenant's New dialogues,) but, by the printed report of the commissioners of the equivalent, 1718, to the house of commons, that medium then amounted to L62,000 for England, and L2000 for Scotland.

From lady-day, or the beginning of 1711, an addition of one third to the postage of home letters was made by act of parliament, as it remains to this day; and, on a medium of four years, to lady-day 1715, the net revenue was - - - - - L90,223

Now deducting the revenue at the restoration, - 21,000

69,223

Also one third for the increase in 1711, by the additional postage. - - - - - - 23,000

And the net increase of this revenue, since the restoration, is L46,000

Only deducting about L2000 for Scotland; which deduction is probably more than compensated by the additional expense arisen from the great increase of franked letters.

About this time the emperor Charles VI first granted commissions to ships fitted out at Ostend, for trading to East-India, whereby great quantities of India goods were brought to Europe, which very much interfered with the commerce of the English and Dutch companies; most of which interloping ships, as well as their commanders and secret projectors, were, nevertheless, procured from England and Holland. Some ships, under that prince's commission, were fitted out from Lisbon and Leghorn. All which moved the English and Dutch companies to make loud complaints at the court of Vienna, though for some years without any redress.

* I presume, he means, net revenue. *A.*

On the 9th of June 1714 the houſe of commons addreſſed Queen Anne, that her quarter part of the aſſiento contract with Spain might be applied to the diſcharge of the national debts; but on the 18th, ſhe anſwered, that ſhe had given the ſame up to the South-ſea company. And the ſame year the queen granted two other ſhips of war to accompany and eſcort the other two ſhips, which ſhe had before granted for carrying out the company's goods, factors, &c. The ports where that company had leave to trade, and to ſettle factories, were Panama in the South ſea, and Portobello, Carthagena, and Vera Cruz, on the North ſea, Buenos-Ayres on the Rio de la Plata, and the port of Havanna in the iſle of Cuba, beſides their inland ſub-factories in New Spain, &c. and their agents at Jamaica, as well as at Cadiz and Madrid in Old Spain. So here was a moſt pompous and ſpecious out-ſet. And the queen's grant of her quarter part of the aſſiento not having been formally conveyed to the company before her death, King George I confirmed that grant on his acceſſion to the crown, as alſo that of the four ſhips, which ſailed to America in the beginning of the year 1715.

Nevertheleſs, in the debates in parliament, it already too plainly appeared, that, from the explanations made by the court of Madrid to their treaty of commerce with Britain, ſince ſigning the treaty of Utrecht, it was not very probable that we ſhould be able to carry on an advantageous trade with the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, as matters then ſtood.

The acceſſion of the preſent royal family of Hanover to the Britiſh throne, by the death of Queen Anne, gave great ſatisfaction to the better part of the nation of all ranks, and eſpecially to the monied and trading intereſts, who thereupon aſſumed new life and vigour: and although diſaffection ſoon after broke out into an open rebellion, yet that being alſo ſoon and eaſily quelled, our general commerce and manufactures have continued, very ſenſibly, to increaſe ever ſince that happy period. Our mercantile ſhipping, not only in London, but in moſt of our other ſea-ports, have alſo viſibly increaſed, as in Briſtol, Liverpool, Glaſgow, Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and in many other ports of Britain and Ireland; and for a never-failing confirmation of the great increaſe of the commerce of thoſe cities and towns, let the vaſt increaſe of the ſuburbs of London and Dublin more eminently ſpeak ſince that period; as well as of Briſtol and Liverpool, and of ſundry inland manufacturing towns to a great degree alſo; ſuch as Mancheſter, Birmingham, &c. And the like may be ſaid with reſpect to our American colonies. Where liberty and property are inviolably preſerved, and the eſtabliſhed form of religion firmly ſecured, while, at the ſame time, ſuch as diſſent from it, of all perſuaſions of proteſtants, are made eaſy and ſafe under the protection of the laws; what can poſſibly hinder ſuch a country and people from growing rich and powerful? on the other

hand, while, for want of heirs of the queen's body, the ſpurious pretenſion of one bred up in the perſecuting bigotry of a very different religion from ours, and yet favoured by too many at home, as well as encouraged by certain foreign potentates, hung over our heads, it is not to be wondered at, that in the later part of that queen's reign, a general diffidence and uneaſineſs prevailed among all ranks, till the legal ſettlement of a proteſtant ſucceſſion, with a numerous royal family, took place. And where ſuch a general uneaſineſs long continues, commerce will gradually languiſh, many perſons will at length leave ſuch a country to ſeek for ſweet content and liberty elſewhere; and as the people will thereby decreaſe, ſo will likewiſe their manufactures and ſhipping. But, thanks to kind providence, the reverſe is now, and long has been, our happy condition.

1715.—King Louis XIV of France dying in this year 1715, we ſhall only briefly note, that, as during his long reign, he had done much hurt to his country, by driving out of France ſo many induſtrious manufacturers, artiſans, and merchants, whom neceſſity prompted to propagate their arts and ſkill in the countries, to which they had retired for ſhelter: ſo, on the other hand, in his reign foreign commerce and plantations were conſiderably improved by the French: he alſo greatly improved and increaſed his marine, ſo that it ſometimes proved a match for the joint fleets of both the other maritime powers of Europe. And although in this work we have nothing particularly to do with his unjuſt invaſions of his peaceable neighbours, any farther than as it affected the general ſtate of commerce either in his own kingdom or elſewhere; yet we cannot avoid remarking, that his perſecution of his proteſtant ſubjects nearly depopulated a conſiderable part of his country, and alſo greatly leſſened the former vaſt conſumption of French manufactures in foreign countries, as we have elſewhere remarked: his foreign wars alſo conſumed great numbers of his people, inſomuch that it is doubted by many, whether France would not upon the whole have been happier, more populous, and richer, had Louis ſolely cultivated the arts of peace and manufactures, and thereby not only would have increaſed his own people, but would have likewiſe drawn thither great numbers of foreigners; inſtead of having, by his unjuſt conqueſts, extended his dominions on almoſt every ſide; and would thereby have alſo increaſed his maritime ſtrength, and his American plantations.

Be this as it may, we ſhall only farther note, from Voltaire's Age of Louis XIV, 'that during his whole reign, he expended eighteen thou-'ſand millions of French money, which, on an average, comes to 330 'millions yearly of preſent money;' or about fourteen millions ſterling per annum, one year with another.

In Mr. Wood's Survey of trade, (*p.* 51) he gives us the balance of commerce in our favour, for the years 1713 and 1714, on a medium

of the two years, viz. our exports, on a medium, exceeded our imports L2,103,148 yearly.

About this time, pig and bar iron began to be made in Virginia of a very good quality; and it is ſaid to be ſince much improved.

By an act of the Britiſh parliament of the 1ſt year of King George I, for enlarging the fund of the bank of England, relating to exchequer bills, &c. it was enacted, that after the redemption of the bank's original fund, and likewiſe of the fund created by this act, for farther circulating exchequer bills; then, and not till then, the corporation of the bank ſhould ceaſe and determine. This was commonly called the aggregate fund, though not applied to conſtitute a part of the general ſinking fund for leſſening the national debts, till the act of the 3d of King George, *c.* 8.

By an act of parliament of this 1ſt year of King George I, for enlarging the capital ſtock and yearly fund of the South-ſea company, and for ſupplying thereby L822,032 : 4 : 8 to public uſes; and for raiſing L169,000, &c.

The capital ſtock of the South ſea company, which till now was

L9,177,967 15 4

Had an addition made to it from the navy-office treaſurer, of - - - - 822,032 4 8

Whereby the capital was, after midſummer 1715, made up - - - - 10,000,000 0 0

Which additional ſtock conſiſted of the following particulars, viz.

L275,339	0	8	For half a year's intereſt on their capital of L9,177,967 : 15 : 4 from chriſtmas 1714, to midſummer 1715.
300,000	0	0	More thereof in full for the half-year, ended at chriſtmas 1715, on the increaſed capital.
8,000	0	0	For their allowance for charges of management for one year, ended on the 25th of December 1715.
L583,339	0	8	
238,693	4	0	Laſtly, there was an addition of ſtock made transferable for the uſe of the public, as the treaſury ſhould direct.
L822,032	4	8	as above.

By theſe additions there was alſo an addition of L49,321 : 18 : 8 to the company's yearly fund, which thereby was made up L600,000 per annum, at 6 per cent.

Yet, notwithſtanding the proviſion hereby made for the year 1715, the company might ſtill proceed to receive the duties ariſing by ſalt, candles, clerks, apprentices, &c. by virtue of the act of the 9th of Queen Anne, whereby they were enabled to make their dividends for this year 1715 in money; and that we may end this point here, though ſomewhat out of its place, the company's general court in May 1716, made the two half-years dividends for the year 1716, in the ſtock aforeſaid; the dividends for both half-years being made at midſummer 1716, by adding 6 per cent in ſtock to each proprietor's account, for the two half-years dividends, (9th and 10th) to chriſtmas 1716.

In this ſame year, the South-ſea company's firſt annual ſhip was launched, and named the Royal Prince, in honour of the prince of Wales, (ſince King George II) governor of that company, who, on that occaſion, was magnificently entertained on board her, with all his court. This ſhip's firſt voyage was in 1717, and her ſecond voyage, 1723.

A printed paper now appeared, giving the net amount of the cuſtoms of England, for the fifteen immediately preceding years; which was as follows, leaving out the odd ſhillings and pence, viz.

Anno 1700,	L1,379,460
—— 1701,	1,637,809
—— 1702,	1,285,605
—— 1703,	1,206,349
—— 1704,	1,401,390
—— 1705,	1,139,277
—— 1706,	1,311,856
—— 1707,	1,192,081
—— 1708,	1,351,536
—— 1809,	1,353,483
—— 1710,	1,208,292
—— 1711,	1,253,598
—— 1712,	1,315,423
—— 1713,	1,541,170
—— 1714,	1,714,139
Total in 15 years,	L20,291,468
The cuſtoms, on a medium, for one year,	L1,352,764

Here we may naturally obſerve, that the years 1701, 1713, and 1714, conſiderably exceeded any of the other eleven; and yet 1704, a proſperous year of war, ſomewhat exceeded the year 1700, a year of peace, but an unſettled and threatening one. And, laſtly, that the net amount of the year 1709, exactly correſponds with that given in to the houſe of commons in that year, which ſo far confirms the authenticity of the account.

Upon a petition of the agent for the planters and merchants of Carolina, and of the other inhabitants of that colony, repreſenting the oppreſſion of the lords proprietors, and their neglect of defence againſt the Indians, &c. the houſe of commons addreſſed the king to ſend them relief: and a bill was this year brought into the houſe of commons, for the better regulation of the charter and proprietary governments in America, and of his majeſty's plantations there; the principal ſcope of which was to reduce all the proprietary charter governments into regal ones. Ever ſince the proprietary colonies began to be very conſiderable, (i. e. ſince the death of King Charles II, and more eſpecially ſince the revolution in 1688,) the miniſtry foreſaw the great conſequence it would be of to the crown and kingdom, to buy off the proprietors of colonies, before they ſhould grow too powerful; and frequent treaties were held with them by the miniſters of the crown for that end; particularly with the truely great Mr. William Penn, for the purchaſe of his fine province of Pennſylvania. His demand was L20,000 and Queen Anne, in council, referred that demand to the lords commiſſioners of trade and plantations; whoſe report was referred by the queen to the lords commiſſioners of the treaſury; ſoon after which an agreement was made with Mr. Penn for L12,000 for the province: but he being ſoon after ſeized with an apoplexy, which diſabled him to execute the ſame, a ſtop was put to that bargain, till by the queen's order a bill in parliament ſhould be prepared for that end. While that bill was depending, Mr. Joſhua Gee and others, who were mortgagees under Mr. Penn, petitioned the houſe of commons for relief; wherein they repreſented, that Mr. Penn having purchaſed of the Indians their title to that country, he had by his induſtry and at great charge improved it, and eſtabliſhed conſiderable colonies therein, whereby he had very much impaired his eſtate in Europe; and that, in the year 1708, to clear a debt contracted for ſettling and improving the ſaid colonies, he had borrowed of the ſaid mortgagees L6,600, to whom he mortgaged the province and all his powers of government. How beneficial it would have been for the public to have then paid off the mortgagees, and have purchaſed that province, ſince ſo vaſtly increaſed in people and value, is now (almoſt too late) ſeen by every one.

Lord Baltimore, as we have ſeen under the year 1661, (though at this time only firſt repreſented to the legiſlature, by the young lord's guardians) in his petition repreſented the great expenſe his great-grandfather had been at in ſettling his province of Maryland; and that he and his three brothers and two ſiſters, (lately become proteſtants, the family having always been papiſts till now) had no way of providing for themſelves but out of thoſe ſeveral branches of the civil government of the province, which by a bill for the better regulation of the charter and proprietary governments in America, and for the encouragement of the trade of this kingdom and of his majeſty's plantations, were intended

to be taken away; the amount whereof was at leaſt L3,000 per annum *. And, as the Indians in this province were very inconſiderable, the white people therein being now much more numerous and ſtronger than they, they therefor humbly hoped, that Maryland might be excepted out of this bill.

A petition was likewiſe preſented by the agent for his majeſty's provinces of Maſſachuſet's bay and Connecticut. With relation to Maſſachuſet's bay, it was repreſented, that it had its charter from King James I in the 18th year of his reign, afterward confirmed by King Charles I in the 4th year of his reign, by virtue whereof, the governor and company of the Maſſachuſet's bay had power to appoint their own officers, civil and military, with other privileges therein mentioned: that in the reign of King James II, their charter was vacated, at the ſame time that many corporations in England were disfranchiſed: that after the revolution King William reſtored the charter, only reſerving to himſelf the appointment of a governor, lieutenant-governor, ſecretary, judge of the admiralty, and the attorney-general; and that this is the charter which the province now enjoys. Hereupon it is humbly obſerved, that the charter of this province being on the ſame footing with the corporations in England, it ſeems equally hard to diveſt them of it, as it would be to disfranchiſe the corporations at home. That this province has given a valuable conſideration to the crown for their charter, viz. the ſubduing and planting a wilderneſs, at a vaſt expenſe, and with the loſs of many lives; whereby they have added a large territory to the crown, and thereby alſo greatly increaſed the trade and commerce of Britain. That this province is not within the reaſons ſuggeſted in the bill, for they have not excerciſed arbitrary power; neither indeed can they: for the principal officers before mentioned, being appointed by the crown, are ſuch a check on the government, that it is entirely out of their power to oppreſs the ſubject. Moreover, they have not neglected the defence of the inhabitants; on the contrary, they have well defended both themſelves and their neighbours in a long French and Indian war; and their ordinary charge for guards, garriſons, guard-ſhips, &c. has been L35,000 one year with another. And though thereby the province has contracted a debt of L150,000 yet they do not complain; nor are they burdenſome to the crown, but are paying it off yearly by degrees Moreover, if this charter ſhould be taken away, no compenſation can be made for it: whereas, in the caſe of proprietary governments, an equivalent may be given to the proprietors, as it ſeems is intended: but here it cannot be, becauſe the privileges here are not veſted in particular perſons, but in the body of the people. Thus, it is like to happen, that the proprietors of Carolina, &c. on whoſe account alone this bill is brought in, may come off well enough, while the charter governments

* They are ſaid to be now (1762) above L9,000 a year. *A.*

in New-England, which have done nothing amiſs, ſhall be the only ſufferers: it is therefor humbly prayed, that this province may ſtill enjoy its privileges, by being excepted out of the bill.

With reſpect to the Connecticut charter, which was alſo intended to be taken away by this bill; it had, like other charter governments, a grant from the crown, whereby they were empowered to appoint all their own officers, civil and military, for the adminiſtration and execution of juſtice: the firſt planters, entirely confiding in the royal charter for the ſecurity of their liberties therein granted, did, at a vaſt expenſe and great peril, ſubdue and plant a wilderneſs, whereby they have increaſed the dominions of the crown, as well as the commerce of Britain: they have, in all times ſince, defended themſelves againſt the enemy; and have impartially adminiſtered juſtice to the ſubject: and when public meaſures have been concerted for the common good of the colonies, they have cheerfully joined in the expenſe. Moreover, they have never to this day coſt the crown ſo much as one ſhilling. They have ſtrictly obſerved the acts of trade and navigation. They have been always dutiful to the crown; and, if their charter be taken away, no equivalent can be given for it; (for the ſame reaſons aſſigned in the Maſſachuſet's bay petition.) It is therefor humbly hoped, that the colony of Connecticut may be excepted out of the bill.

Petitions were alſo preſented in behalf of the duke of Beaufort and Lord Craven, both minors, to be heard by council againſt the bill, they being conſiderable proprietors in Carolina and the Bahama iſlands; and from the agent for the colony of Rhode iſland and Providence plantation in New-England. The foregoing petitions, which contain much of the hiſtory of the firſt planting of theſe colonies, were referred to the committee to whom the bill was committed.

Yet, notwithſtanding all the buſtle occaſioned by this bill, it was in the end dropped; although it is moſt certainly and obviouſly of the laſt importance to the public, that the proprietary colonies, ſtill exiſting as ſuch, ſhould be bought off and veſted in the crown; ſince the longer they remain proprietary, the more valuable they conſtantly grow to the proprietors, and the more difficult it will prove to buy them out. This, doubtleſs, the legiſlature will hereafter duely conſider in a ſeaſon of profound peace and tranquillity. The foregoing petitions and allegations of the charter colonies are much more difficult to be anſwered, for the reaſons therein exhibited. And this was probably one main reaſon for dropping the bill; which, doubtleſs, was a well intended one, though liable to ſome objections, which may hereafter be obviated. What will poſterity ſay of the preſent age? but that, in reſpect to the large proprietary governments of Britiſh America, we were ſupinely negligent of the national intereſt; when it ſhall be found, that the proprietors have ſo vaſt an income thereby, as to render it impracticable to buy them out,

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without either laying too heavy a burden on the public, or elſe uſing compulſive means, which are inconſiſtent with our conſtitution.

By the treaty of peace, concluded at Utrecht this year between King John V of Portugal and King Philip V of Spain, the later cedes to the former, by the ſixth article, the territory of the Sacrament, ſituated on the northern bank of the river of Plate, in America; but ſo as that no other nation of Europe ſhall be permitted to ſettle in or trade to it. Yet, in the next article it is ſtipulated, that the king of Spain may nevertheleſs offer an equivalent for the ſaid colony, if agreeable to his Portugueſe majeſty; provided it be made within one year and an half. All other conqueſts on either ſide are by this treaty to be mutually reſtored.

So greatly does the colony of New-England abound with naval ſtores of almoſt all kinds, that in a letter from a New-Englander to the board of trade and plantations (printed in this year, 1715) concerning the New-England trade, it is aſſerted, 'that one fleet only from New-England 'brought home 6000 barrels of pitch, tar, and turpentine, to London, 'and that millions of trees are rotting in the woods, for want of encou-'ragement to collect them. Maſts,' ſays this author, 'we have the fineſt 'in the world: of hemp we have hitherto raiſed but little; but our ſoil 'is very proper for it: our woods afford all ſorts of ſhip-timber and 'plank: ſhips of late we build very well, both for beauty and ſtrength: 'our country abounds with iron ore; but we have not yet got into the 'way of making enough for our own ſupply. Wherefor, to prevent 'our ſetting up in New-England manufactures that will interfere with 'Great Britain, it is highly neceſſary to employ the New-England 'people as much as poſſible in making naval ſtores for their mother 'country, leſt we ſhould hereafter be obliged to depend on the plea-'ſure of the Danes, Swedes, and Ruſſians, for leave to ſet a fleet to ſea; 'to whom we pay ready money for their naval ſtores, which, by the 'war in the north, have riſen near 50 per cent on us. That, in the 'great ſcarcity of woollen goods from England about nine years ago, 'the New-England people, not being able to pay 200 per cent advance 'thereon, ſet up a very conſiderable manufacture, ſtill in being, for 'ſtuffs, kerſeys, linſey-woolleys, flannels, buttons, &c. Copper alſo, New-'England has the beſt in the world, &c.' Herein, even ſo early as this time, we find our ſugar colonies complaining of New-England's great trade to the Dutch colony of Surinam, which they now ſupplied with vaſt numbers of horſes, and with proviſions, fiſh, &c. and, in return, took their melaſſes, which they made into rum. The reſt of this piece pleads for a royal charter for incorporating a bank of credit, lately erected at Boſton, from which they promiſed great things to the colony, beſides one per cent to the crown.

Such eſſays are to be cautiouſly conſidered, as being almoſt always exaggerated, becauſe generally calculated for certain partial ends or purpoſes. His plan in general is undoubtedly good; and we have before ſeen, that our legiſlature has encouraged it: nevertheleſs, as our colonies on the continent come to grow populous, it will be impoſſible altogether to prevent their entering upon manufactures interfering with thoſe of the mother country; and the moſt that can fairly be effected ſeems to be, to ſtudy as much as poſſible to ſet thoſe people upon raiſing the raw materials of new productions, and particularly naval ſtores. As for their having copper and iron, it ſeems to be doubtful, whether it can ever prove profitable for the mother country. The former we have ſeen, by good authority, to be in great plenty with us at home; and, with regard to iron, we ſhall hereafter ſee how far the Britiſh legiſlature has judged proper to encourage it. Tin and lead mines have not as yet made their appearance in Britiſh America.

In December Mr. Bubb, the Britiſh miniſter at Madrid, concluded a new treaty of commerce with the king of Spain, containing, however, nothing very particular. By the firſt article Britiſh ſubjects were to pay no higher duties in the Spaniſh ports than thoſe they paid for the ſame merchandize in the reign of the catholic king, Charles II. The ſecond confirms the treaty made by the Britiſh ſubjects with the magiſtrates of St. Andero, in the year 1700. By the third, they may, as formerly uſed, gather ſalt at the iſland of Tortuga. By the fourth and fifth, Britiſh ſubjects were to pay no higher duties than Spaniſh ſubjects paid in the ſame place: and they ſhould enjoy all the rights, privileges, &c. which they enjoyed before the laſt war, and by the treaty of 1667; and the ſubjects of both nations ſhall mutually be treated as thoſe the moſt favoured in commercial matters. The ſixth and ſeventh aboliſh innovations on either ſide, and confirm the treaty of Utrecht. [*Political ſtate of Great Britain, V.* xi.]

1716.—Notwithſtanding what we have juſt ſeen of the ſuperabundance of naval ſtores in New-England, and particularly of timber, yet we find, in the year 1716, Mr. Shute, governor of the Maſſachuſet's bay, complaining to their aſſembly, 'that, notwithſtanding a law paſſed in 'Great Britain for encouraging naval ſtores for the navy royal, and for 'the preſervation of white pine trees in America, for maſts, yards, &c. 'great ſpoils are dayly committed in the king's woods, by cutting down 'and putting to private uſes ſuch timber as may be proper for the navy 'royal.' He therefor recommends paſſing a new law in New-England, as well as putting the old ones in ſtrict execution, for this great end.

In the former part of this year, 1716, the duke of Orleans, regent of France during the minority of Louis XV, was ſo ill adviſed as to raiſe the value of a louis d'or from 16 livres to 20, and of a crown from 3½ and

4 livres to 5 livres. Thus he got one fifth part of the value of thoſe coins, gulling the people with a belief (but with the wiſer ſort, with only a pretended one) that they were no loſers thereby, becauſe they received back from the mint the ſame number of livres they had paid in; although they only received back four ounces of ſilver inſtead of five. This occaſioned great quantities of old ſpecie to be hoarded up, to the conſiderable obſtruction of the circulation of money. For this malady a new expedient was fallen upon, viz. the erection of a general bank, whoſe bills bore 5 per cent intereſt; for this bank paid only the new raiſed ſpecie, though they received both new and old ſpecie: as the coins were ſo fluctuating in value, and the bank bills were invariable, people for that reaſon carried all their money to the bank. This was allurement ſufficient for the duke-regent to ſeize on ſo vaſt a treaſure: the bank therefor on a ſudden was made to ſtop payment; though the quantity of gold and ſilver coin then in France was computed to be near 400 millions of livres, or near 17 millions of ſterling money. And thus, the king's treaſury was filled by the ruin of his people. In like ſort, though not quite as yet in ſo violent a degree, were the public debts paid off in France: the capital was retrenched and the intereſt reduced by edicts, without the conſent of the creditors; inſomuch, that ſome of the public ſecurities fell 50 per cent, others 80 per cent, and ſome 90 per cent: which ſad ſtate of things produced innumerable bankruptcies.

There was coined in the tower of London, from Auguſt 1715 to Auguſt 1716, L1,452,155 in gold; and but L7,000 in ſilver; [*Boyer's Political ſtate of Great Britain, for Auguſt* 1716] and it was reckoned, that near two thirds of that gold was from French louis d'ors melted down.

No redreſs being obtained for the invaſion of the privileges of the Engliſh Eaſt-India company, a proclamation was iſſued by the prince of Wales, guardian of the realm in his father's abſence, ſtrictly prohibiting his majeſty's ſubjects from trading to the Eaſt-Indies under foreign commiſſions, contrary to the privileges of the Engliſh Eaſt-India company; and alſo from ſerving on board ſuch foreign ſhips.

Some controverſies having ariſen this year concerning the trade of Great Britain into the countries within the Baltic ſea, we find in a periodical paper, formerly well known by the name of Boyer's Political ſtate of Great Britain, for the month of November 1721,* the total value, at prime coſt, of all merchandize either imported or exported, between Great Britain† on one ſide, and Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Eaſt country, (i. e. Pruſſia and Livonia) and Ruſſia, on the other, during the ſaid year 1716, viz.

* It conſiſts in all of 60 volumes 8vo, and extends from 1ſt January 1710 to 31ſt December 1740. *A.*

† The imports and exports of Scotland are not included in this ſtatement. *M.*

Imported in the year 1716, into Great Britain,		
From Denmark and Norway, in maſts, timber, pitch and tar, hemp, &c. - - - - -	L 73,896 *	
From the Eaſt country, chiefly in maſts, hemp, &c.	103,635	
From Sweden, chiefly in iron, pitch, tar, maſts, &c.	136,959	
From Ruſſia, chiefly in hemp, pitch, tar, maſts, &c.	197,270	
Total imported		511,760
Exported from Great Britain, viz.		
To Denmark and Norway - - - -	60,317	
To the Eaſt country - - - - - -	65,293	
To Sweden - - - - - - -	24,101	
To Ruſſia - - - - - - -	113,154	
Total exported		262,865
Total balance, or loſs to Great Britain - - -		L248,895

Excepting ſome few commodities from Ruſſia and Pruſſia, as rhubarb, and ſometimes raw ſilk from Perſia, cavear, &c. all other articles got from thoſe northern parts are ſince this time diſcovered to be had from our own American plantations; as iron from New-York and Pennſylvania, timber of all kinds from moſt of our continental colonies, pitch and tar from the ſame, as alſo hemp and flax. Raw ſilk, increaſing apace, from Carolina and Georgia. Our legiſlature have indeed enacted ſundry bounties on ſeveral of thoſe commodities already with good effect; and, we hope, will give earneſt attention more and more to ſuch important purpoſes. We will not, however, anſwer for the preciſe exactneſs of the above account; but fear the general balance is increaſed againſt us ſince that time, more eſpecially with reſpect to Ruſſia †.

Mr. Bubb, the Britiſh miniſter at Madrid, in behalf of the South-ſea company, now concluded a treaty by way of an explanation or emendation of the aſſiento contract for negroes: but as that trade has been long ſince laid aſide, we ſhall not detain our readers with what is elſewhere in print, and may likewiſe probably be of very little information or uſe to any at this time, or perhaps at any other period of time. Only we may juſt remark, that the annual ſhip allowed, was ſtipulated to be of 650 tons, Spaniſh meaſure, from the year 1717 to the year 1727.

1717.—The Dutch Eaſt-India company's privileges were now prolonged for forty years.

An unnatural rebellion of free and proteſtant ſubjects, in behalf of a popiſh pretender, and againſt a moſt humane and indulgent proteſtant king on the throne of Great Britain, being happily ſuppreſſed, the miniſtry and parliament determined to take advantage of a time of tranquility to reduce the intereſt on the public debts, preparatory to the

* The odd ſhillings and pence are thrown out. *A.*

† This account may be compared with that of the year 1701. *A.*

gradual reduction of the principal, for which good purpoſe the reduction of the legal intereſt of money from 6 to 5 per cent in 1714, had indeed paved the way; as did alſo what is uſually called the natural intereſt of money, or that rate of intereſt at which money might now be borrowed on good private ſecurity. In order that this good and great end might be attained with ſucceſs and ſecurity, the government treated with the bank and South-ſea company, to whom a great part of the national debt was due, and brought them to agree, not only to the reduction of the intereſt on their own reſpective capitals from 6 to 5 per cent, but that the bank ſhould advance to the public, when wanted, L2,500,000, and the South-ſea company the ſum of L2,000,000, at 5 per cent intereſt, to be in readineſs for paying off ſuch of the proprietors of the orders of four lotteries of the reign of Queen Anne, and of other redeemable annuities, as ſhould demand their principal money to be paid to them, rather than accept 5 per cent inſtead of their preſent intereſt of 6 per cent. This ſalutary ſcheme was effected in conſequence of three ſeveral acts of Parliament. [3 *Geo. I, cc.* 7, 8, 9.]

By the firſt, intitled, an act for redeeming the duties and revenues which were ſettled to pay off the principal and intereſt on the orders made forth on four lottery acts, &c. commonly called the general fund, the two companies were impowered to borrow money on their common ſeals, or to make calls on their proprietors, for enabling them to advance to the public the two ſums above ſpecified: the reduction of intereſt to commence from michaelmas 1727, for which intereſt a new annual fund was hereby eſtabliſhed, and has ever ſince been called the general fund, amounting to L724,849: 6: 10$\frac{1}{2}$. Hereby meaſures were ſo well concerted by the government, that all the proprietors of thoſe redeemable duties acquieſced in the reduction of their intereſt from 6 to 5 per cent, without borrowing any part of the ſtipulated ſums to be advanced by the bank and South ſea company.

For by the act [*c.* 8] for redeeming ſeveral funds of the bank, purſuant to former proviſoes of redemption, &c. the bank's willingneſs to accept 5 per cent intereſt for all the debts due to that corporation was declared, inſtead of their then allowances, and to advance the above L2,500,000 if called for: and the bank was hereby to deliver up L2,000,000 of exchequer-bills; for which they were to have an annuity of L100,000 redeemable on one year's notice, after chriſtmas 1717. This is called the aggregate-fund, firſt eſtabliſhed by an act [1 *Geo. I, c.* 12] though not particularly applied to leſſening the national debts till now. Hereby alſo the bank was to have 3 per cent per annum and 1 *d.* per cent per diem inſtead of of 2*d.* formerly allowed for circulating the ſum of L2,561,025, being the remaining exchequer-bills, till fully cancelled, from chriſtmas 1717: ſo that the whole capital of the bank was hereby increaſed to L5,375,027: 17: 10, viz.

The original capital ſtock was - -	L1,600,000	0	0
The exchequer-bills, cancelled by the 7th of Queen Anne - - - - -	1,775,027	17	10
And now by exchequer-bills cancelled -	2,000,000	0	0
Total bank capital -	L5,375,027	17	10

But their original capital of L1,600,000 was to continue at ſix per cent intereſt to the 1ſt of Auguſt 1742.

The next act [*c.* 9] was for redeeming the yearly fund of the South-ſea company at ſix per cent, and ſettling on them a yearly fund at five per cent, redeemable by parliament, &c. as before mentioned, viz.

The South ſea Company's preſent capital being 10 millions,

And their preſent annual fund being L600,000, their fund was now reduced from ſix to five per cent, i. e. from L600,000 to L500,000 from midſummer 1718, beſides their yearly allowance of L8,000 for charges of management. The company were alſo hereby impowered to borrow money on their common ſeal, either for the purpoſes of this act, or for carrying on their trade, or other neceſſary occaſions, at ſuch intereſt as they ſhould think fit, and for any time not leſs than ſix months: and although their fund might be redeemed, on one year's notice, after midſummer 1723, yet their trade and corporate capacity was hereby to continue for ever. This was, in the ſtile of the exchequer, called the South-ſea fund.

By all theſe ſavings, viz. by one per cent on the funds before mentioned, and by one penny per cent per day, ſaved for the future on the exchequer-bills hereafter to be circulated, a good foundation was laid for the famous ſinking fund, amounting then to L323,434:7:7½ per annum. Moreover, for the greater conveniency of the proprietors of the lottery-orders and other debts at the exchequer, hereby ranged under this new general fund, they were brought from the exchequer to the bank, and erected into a transferrable ſtock, at five per cent intereſt. The yearly ſaving or ſurplus, called the ſinking fund, was hereby to be ſolely applicable to the diſcharge of the principal and intereſt of ſuch national debts as were contracted before chriſtmas 1716. As by the act *c.* 7, the moiety of the original bankers debt, which had been fixed at ſix per cent by the act 12 *Gul. III. c.* 12, and which moiety was thereby properly made the whole debt on the public to be redeemed, amounting to L664,263, was included in the redemption from ſix to five per cent. And as almoſt all the other public debts comprehended in that act, called the aggregate-fund, were either ſubſcribed into the South-ſea company in the year 1720, or have ſince been paid off or annihilated, we have the more conciſely deſcribed them, as they now exiſt no more.

N. B. By a clauſe in the ſaid act [*c.* 7] the duty of 6*d* on every piece of forty ells of Britiſh-made linen exported, which had been laid on by the tonnage and poundage act, was taken off; 'the ſaid manufacture' (ſays this act) 'employing many thouſands of the poor of this kingdom.'

Thus out of the three funds, called the aggregate, the general, and the South ſea fund, was formed the ſinking fund; being purely the ſavings out of thoſe funds by the ſeveral reductions now and afterwards made in the rates of intereſt and allowances; and as theſe have at different times been leſſened, and annual or other payments have been made to the creditors of the public out of the ſinking fund, it has proportionably increaſed *.

We ſhall only farther remark on this firſt famous reduction of the intereſt on the national funds, and the eſtabliſhment of a fund for farther leſſening the public debts, that inſtead of lowering the prices of the ſeveral ſtocks at market, it was ſeen, that, by michaelmas in the year 1717, they had conſiderably riſen in price; and particularly that South-ſea ſtock, which, at lady-day 1717, was but at $100\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, got up to $111\frac{1}{2}$ per cent by michaelmas.

The regent of France having, in the year 1716, erected the firſt public circulating bank that had ever been in France, by the perſuaſion of Mr. John Law, a native of Edinburgh; whereby he propoſed mighty matters for the advancement of the commerce and manufactures of France: 'which kingdom,' ſays the preamble to the patent for that bank, very juſtly, 'by its ſituation and fertility, wanted nothing but a ſolid 'credit to eſtabliſh therein the moſt flouriſhing commerce. Where-'for the Sieur Law has now authority granted to him and his company, 'for 20 years, to iſſue notes, as a public bank, with abſolute protection 'for the caſh of foreigners, even though their country ſhould be at 'war with France. The crowns or money of this bank to be always 'of the ſame weight and fineneſs, and their notes to be always payable 'on demand. This bank might keep caſh for merchants, and diſcount 'bills of exchange, &c.' This bank, of which the regent called himſelf the protector, was principally projected by Mr. Law for the grand purpoſe of paying off the public debts of France, being above 1500 millions of livres, or about 70 millions ſterling, by drawing its creditors into the newly-projected Miſſiſippi or India company; for which end, the Sieur Crozat was brought to reſign his patent of the country of Miſſiſippi, granted to him by the name of Louiſiana, in the year 1712. The regent therefor now erected a company of commerce by the name of the company of the Weſt, commonly called the Miſſiſippi company,

* It was becauſe the hint for this ſinking fund was probably taken from thoſe of Holland in the year 1655, and the pope in the year 1685, that the ſucceſs of thoſe foreign ſchemes of finance has been noticed in our work. *A.*

with the ſole trade thither, and alſo the trade of beaver to Canada, for 25 years: and great pains were taken to ſpread all over France pompous accounts of the country of Miſſiſippi, from north latitude 29, up to the country of Canada, or New France, in north latitude 40.

Mr. Law was appointed chief director of this company, into which all the national debts were intended to be brought, being now at 60 to 70 per cent diſcount; this being an exact copy of the earl of Oxford's ſcheme for the South-ſea company in the year 1711. In December 1717, the capital ſtock of this Miſſiſippi company was fixed at 100 millions of livres, with four per cent intereſt. In the meantime, as the bank was to co-operate with this company for the ſaid grand ſcheme, the king directed all the receivers of his revenues to make their receipts and payments in bank bills only. As the public debts were taken in at par, it might have been expected that the creditors would have readily come in; yet it was ſome time before they could get 100 millions ſubſcribed, where we will leave them for the preſent.

This new company for Louiſiana would not fail to give grounds of jealouſy to Great Britain, its territory lying behind our American plantations, and New Orleans, its capital, having already 600 houſes.

There being a conſiderable ſcarcity of ſilver coin in England, by reaſon our gold coins were rated too high in price, and the great Sir Iſaac Newton being conſulted thereupon by the lords commiſſioners of the treaſury, he adviſed the reduction of guineas from 21/6 to 21/, which was accordingly done, by approbation of the houſe of commons, who addreſſed the king for this purpoſe: at which rate they have remained ever ſince; whereby, in ſome meaſure, the ſilver coins, which before had been exported in exchange for gold, were kept at home. Guineas were originally coined only for 20/ in ſilver, and ſo were the old broad pieces of King Charles I, though at this time paſſing for L1 : 3 : 6. But now the caſe is going to be the reverſe, occaſioned by the vaſt exportations of ſilver bullion to the Eaſt-Indies, whereby ſilver is become ſcarcer, and gold is become more plenty, by the profit of bringing gold from India and China. For ſilver ever has, and probably ever will, hold the prerogative of being the fixed ſtandard, gold being always valued by ſilver, but not ſilver by gold. It was aſſerted, that our Eaſt-India company had exported in one year near three millions of ounces of ſilver to India, which was more than was imported from all parts.

In the ſame year, there was a treaty of alliance concluded between Great Britain, France, and the ſtates-general of the United Netherlands, for the guarantee of the treaty of Utrecht; and particularly for maintaining the order of ſucceſſion to the crowns of England and France thereby eſtabliſhed; and for the demolition of the ports of Dunkirk and Mardyke. [*Collection of treaties, V.* iv, *p.* 39, *ed.* 1732.]

Article IV) ' For the entire deſtruction of the port of Dunkirk: the ' great paſſage of the new ſluice of Mardyke, which is 44 feet wide, ' ſhall be demoliſhed from top to bottom, and the little ſluice ſhall be ' reduced to 16 feet in breadth. The jettees and faſcine-work to be alſo ' demoliſhed: it being hereby the intention of the contracting parties, ' that no more jettees nor faſcine-work ſhall ever be again made on the ' ſhore of this coaſt, for any port or haven at Dunkirk, or at Mardyke, ' or at any other place whatever within two leagues from either of ' thoſe two places. The demolition of the jettees or piers on both ſides ' of the old canal, or port of Dunkirk, ſhall be entirely finiſhed and ' made level with the ground all the way from the loweſt ebb as far ' as within the town of Dunkirk: and if there ſhall remain any pieces ' of Fort-blanc, Chateau-verd, and Bonne eſperance, they ſhall be totally ' laid flat to the ground.'

Never ſurely were articles ſtronger worded for the entire execution of this part of the treaty of Utrecht: and the three contracting parties alſo mutually agree to guarantee this as well as the other articles relating to the order of ſucceſſion, by reſpectively contributing, viz. the two crowns each 8000 foot and 4000 horſe, and the ſtates 4000 foot and 2000 horſe, in caſe either of the allies ſhould be attacked by any other potentate, or be diſturbed by inteſtine rebellions, or on any other pretext whatever. And in caſe the ſaid ſuccours be not ſufficient, the allies ſhould agree in concert to furniſh a greater, and, if the caſe ſhall require it, they ſhall declare war againſt the aggreſſors, and aſſiſt one another with all their forces. *Articles* VI, VII) But, by the ſeparate articles, the guarantee and ſuccours are both limited to the territories of the reſpective allies in Europe only.

This year the South-ſea company's firſt annual ſhip, the Royal Prince, ſailed for La Vera Cruz.

About this time, and for ſome time backward, there were great complaints againſt the Swedes for the unjuſt captures of many Britiſh merchant-ſhips and their cargoes, though in time of peace; and for ſheltering Britiſh rebels, contrary to treaties, and particularly to that of the year 1700, with this very king of Sweden. Yet matters could not be ſettled during his life; but he being killed the following year, at the ſiege of Frederickſhall in Norway, an accommodation was ſoon after concluded with his ſiſter and ſucceſſor Ulrica Eleonora.

The right of Britiſh ſubjects to cut logwood, (or, as the Spaniards term it, Campeachy wood) came again this year on the carpet *, and the lords commiſſioners of trade and plantations, in a repreſentation to his Britannic majeſty, aſſerted, and proved beyond contradiction, the right of his ſubjects to cut logwood in the bay of Campeachy. This was

* See above in the year 1662.

occaſioned by the Spaniſh ambaſſador extraordinary, the marquis de Monteleone having delivered a memorial againſt the Britiſh ſettlement in the iſle of Triſt, and on the Laguna de Terminos in the bay of Campeachy, where they continued to cut logwood: declaring, 'that if, in 'the ſpace of eight months, they do not leave the place, they ſhall be 'looked on and treated as pirates.' That board repreſents to his majeſty, 'that ſince a trade of ſo great importance to our navigation and 'the American colonies is in danger of being loſt, we have again care-'fully peruſed the books and papers in our office, and have received 'from the merchants and others the fulleſt information we can hope 'to obtain, which hath taken up much time. And we now humbly 'crave leave to lay before your majeſty the paſt and preſent ſtate of 'this trade, with the arguments that formerly engaged your majeſty's 'royal predeceſſors to protect and ſupport the ſame; to which we ſhall 'add ſome obſervations, and the reaſons that induce us to conclude, 'your majeſty's ſubjects have now as full and ample a right to this 'trade as to any other liberty or privilege that has been allowed by the 'crown of Spain, and enjoyed by them, by virtue of any treaty what-'ſoever.

'Firſt, logwood is one of the productions of the province of Yuca-'tan, where the Spaniards are poſſeſſed of San Franciſco de Campeachy, 'its capital town and port (which has been thrice taken by the Engliſh) 'and of two other inland towns, Merida and Valladolid, having but 'few inhabitants: but the reſt of the province, before the Engliſh 'logwood-cutters were ſettled, was in a manner wholely deſolate and un-'inhabited. It is, however, allowed, that the Spaniards had from time 'to time cut wood in ſeveral parts near their own ſettlements: but, 'during the hoſtilities in the Weſt-Indies before the year 1667, they 'deſerted that employment, being frequently interrupted by the priva-'teers, both by ſea and land; who, by degrees, becoming acquainted 'with the coaſt, and with thoſe parts where the wood grew, that were 'moſt remote from the Spaniards, at laſt fell into the trade, and laid 'the foundation of their future eſtabliſhment near Laguna de Termi-'nos, and Triſt and Beef iſlands. For, notwithſtanding the treaty of 'Madrid, concluded by the earl of Sandwich in the year 1667, was 'principally intended to adjuſt our commerce with Spain in Europe, 'yet a general, firm, and perfect, amity being thereby concluded, it was 'conſtrued to extend to America as well as to Europe; wherefor many 'of the Britiſh privateers were then induced to quit their former courſe, 'and to ſettle with the logwood-cutters in the Laguna de Terminos: 'ſo that in the year 1669, their numbers were conſiderably increaſed, 'and great quanties of wood were tranſported both to Jamaica and 'New-England.

' The American treaty, for reſtraining depredations in thoſe parts, ' concluded in 1670, encouraged ſeveral others of the privateers or ſea- ' men to fall into this employment of cutting wood, to which, it was ' now generally ſuppoſed, they had a right by the ſaid treaty.

' And Sir Thomas Lynch, then governor of Jamaica, tranſmitted to ' the lords of the council, his reaſons for encouraging this trade, viz.

' I) That the Engliſh had done ſo for divers years.

' II) It was in deſolate and uninhabited places.

' III) That it ſeems a poſſeſſion granted by the American treaty.

' IV) It might give a right to ſeclude the Dutch and French, if we ' ſhould break with Spain.

' V) The Spaniards had not, to that time, made any complaints of it.

' VI) This employ makes the reducing of the privateers more eaſy.

' VII) And, that it will employ 100 ſail of ſhips annually, and bring ' in more to his majeſty's cuſtoms and the nation's trade than any co- ' lony the king hath.

' Although at firſt they found the logwood by the ſea-ſide, they were ' afterward forced to go four or five miles up into the country for their ' refreſhment, where they planted Indian proviſions, and built houſes to ' keep themſelves from the ſun and rain. That, in all the time of their ' working, they had never ſeen any Spaniard, or other perſon, although ' they had gone ſix or ſeven miles farther into the country, to kill deer, ' &c. That Sir Thomas Lynch, governor of Jamaica, in 1672, wrote all ' this to the earl of Arlington, ſecretary of ſtate; and that this kind of ' poſſeſſion is held in the Weſt-Indies to be the ſtrongeſt that can be, ' viz. felling of wood, building of houſes, and clearing and planting the ' ground. That the depoſitions of many Engliſh concerned in this log- ' wood trade were, in ſubſtance, as follows, viz. that our king's ſubjects ' have been uſed, for ſome years, to hunt, to fiſh, and to cut logwood, ' in divers bays, iſlands, and parts of the continent, not frequented or ' poſſeſſed by any of the ſubjects of his catholic majeſty, and without ' any moleſtation; which cutting of logwood there, had been approv- ' ed of by the committee of the king's privy-council. Which allow- ' ance gave freſh vigour to the logwood-cutters: although about that ' time the Spaniards began to interrupt them, and to diſpute their right ' to that liberty which they had ſo long quietly enjoyed. For it is an ' undoubted fact, that from the publication of the treaty of 1667, until ' about two years after the concluſion of the American treaty in 1670, ' the logwood-cutters had never been in the leaſt diſturbed, either ' directly or indirectly. Nor does it appear, that the Spaniſh governors ' took any umbrage at, or made any complaint about, it; much leſs did ' they pretend to an excluſive right, or that it was contrary to the laws ' of their commerce. That the Engliſh who were ſettled at the Laguna ' de Terminos, in reſentment for the Spaniards having taken two

'Engliſh ſhips which had logwood on board, ſeized on a Spaniſh bark 'at the ſaid Laguna, bound to Tabaſco: yet the governor of San Fran-'ciſco de Campeachy, in vindication of the firſt hoſtilities of the Spa 'niards, complained of by Sir Thomas Lynch in 1672, took not the 'leaſt notice of thoſe Engliſh ſhips having logwood, nor of our cutting 'logwood, nor of our being for ſome years ſettled on the ſaid Laguna, 'nor did he aſſign any other reaſon for making thoſe repriſals, but our 'having taken the ſaid Spaniſh bark. That the Engliſh having been 'in poſſeſſion of the Laguna de Terminos prior to the American trea-'ty of 1670; and the 7th article of that treaty running as follows: it 'is agreed, that the king of Great Britain ſhall have, hold, and always 'poſſeſs, in full ſovereignty and propriety, all the lands, countries, 'iſlands, colonies, and other places, be they what they will, lying and 'ſituate in the Weſt-Indies, or in any part of America, which the ſaid 'king of Great Britain, or his ſubjects, now hold and poſſeſs; inſo-'much, that they neither can nor ought hereafter to be conteſted or 'called in queſtion for them upon any account, or under any pretence 'whatſoever. That by the queen regent of Spain's cedula, in June '1672, declaring ſuch to be pirates who ſhould make invaſion, or trade 'without licence, in the ports of the Indies, it does not appear, that 'cutting of logwood was then eſteemed an invaſion. Yet, by virtue of 'this cedula, it was at length carried to that height, that, if our ſhips 'had but any logwood onboard, they were confiſcated without remedy, 'although the ſaid cedula was inconſiſtent with the American treaty, 'and made *ex poſt facto*, after the ratification of that ſolemn treaty. 'That although in 1680 the Spaniards violently diſlodged our log-'wood-cutters from the ſaid iſland of Triſt, and the Laguna de Ter-'minos, yet in 1682 our trade to and from thoſe parts was greater 'than ever. That, excepting two or three months after the aforeſaid 'aſſault in 1680, it is well known to the Spaniards, that we have been 'ever ſince poſſeſſed of thoſe parts where we cut logwood. That a 'clauſe in the firſt article of the treaty of commerce at Utrecht de-'termines this conteſt relating to the cutting of logwood beyond all 'poſſibility of diſpute for the future, viz. after the confirmation and ra-'tification of the American treaty of 1670. It follows:

'Without any prejudice, however, to any liberty or power which the 'ſubjects of Great Britain enjoyed before, either through right, ſuf-'ferance, or indulgence.

'If therefor this comprehenſive clauſe, which relates only to the 'Weſt-Indies, confirms, ſecures, and re-eſtabliſhes, thoſe liberties, which 'the ſubjects of Great Britain enjoyed in America before the treaty in '1670, it neceſſarily follows, that they having then enjoyed the liberty 'of cutting logwood without any interruption, as hath been fully prov-ed, either through right, ſufferance, or indulgence, they are again in-

'titled by this (Utrecht) treaty to the ſame liberty, in as plain and 'expreſs words as can be uſed or imagined. And that your majeſty 'may be more fully appriſed of the importance of this trade, the ſame 'will be effectually demonſtrated by the following account of the quan- 'ties of logwood imported ſince the war, viz. In the year 1713, 2189 'tons, 15 cwt. In 1714, 4878 tons, 14 cwt. In 1715, 5863 tons, 12 'cwt. and in 1716, 2032 tons, 17 cwt. being, one year with another, '3741 tons; which cannot be computed at leſs than L60,000 per an- 'num, though the price at preſent be reduced from L40 to L16 per 'ton: whereas, before your majeſty's ſubjects were ſettled there, it was 'worth L100 per ton.

'Nor is this trade leſs neceſſary than beneficial to your majeſty's do- 'minions, by reaſon of the great encouragement it gives to our ſeamen 'and ſhipping. Upon the whole, therefor, we are humbly of opinion, '1*ſt*, that the ſubjects of this your majeſty's kingdom, for ſome years 'before, as well as after the American treaty of 1670, did enjoy an un- 'interrupted liberty of cutting logwood in thoſe parts of the bay of 'Campeachy not inhabited by Spaniards; either through right, ſuf- 'ferance, or indulgence: 2*dly*, that the ſaid American treaty did eſta- 'bliſh a right in the crown of Great Britain to the Laguna de Termi- 'nos, &c. thoſe places, at the time of the treaty, and for ſome years 'before, being actually in poſſeſſion of the Britiſh ſubjects: 3*dly*, 'that the royal cedula, iſſued out by the court of Spain, was a viola- 'tion of that treaty, foraſmuch as the carrying on the trade to the La- 'guna de Terminos was thereby interpreted an invaſion, and the log- 'wood-cutters accounted pirates. And that your majeſty's ſubjects 'having been at leaſt ſuffered to enjoy the liberty of cutting logwood, 'as aforeſaid, before the concluſion of the American treaty, although 'your majeſty ſhould not inſiſt on your right to the Laguna de Termi- 'nos, yet that the ſame liberty is abſolutely granted and confirmed by 'the treaty of commerce made at Utrecht. And we do farther think 'it our duty to repreſent to your majeſty, that, although the ſaid 'Spaniſh ambaſſador ſeems to declare in his memorial, that no attempt 'ſhould be made to diſlodge your ſubjects, ſettled on the Laguna de 'Terminos, in a leſs time than eight months from the date of his me- 'morial, yet they were diſlodged and taken priſoners in the ſame 'month the memorial was delivered, as appears by ſeveral affidavits.'

All which is humbly ſubmitted by

(Signed) *Suffolk*, *J. Molesworth*,
J. Chetwynd, *D. Pulteney*,
Whitehall, Sept. 25, 1717. *Charles Cooke*, *M. Bladen*.

1718.—In March 1718 the South-ſea company's ſecond great annual ſhip was launched, and named the Royal George, in honour of his majeſty King George I, the company's governor. But the commerce of that

company was completely ruined in its infancy by the war with Spain, which began this year: and their effects, factors, and ſervants, in the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies were ſeized and detained, contrary to the aſſiento-contract, whereby they ought to have had eighteen months time allowed them for the removal of their effects, &c. which the company's agent at Madrid repreſented in very ſtrong terms to the cardinal miniſter, whoſe anſwer was, that the company ſhould be indemnified whenever peace ſhould be concluded; yet the ſame was never effectually performed: and though this war was but of a ſhort duration, the company, nevertheleſs, ſuffered conſiderably by it; and toward the cloſe of this year, repreſented to his Britannic majeſty their various grievances, which were in ſubſtance, viz.

I) That whereas in reſpect to the queen's two ſhips, the Bedford and Elizabeth, laden for the company's account, by virtue of two cedulas granted by the king of Spain in the year 1714, the former to Carthagena, and the later to Vera Cruz, yet the Bedford's cargo was confiſcated, on the pretext of over-tonnage, though it afterward appeared upon remeaſurement, that its cargo was under the ſtipulated tonnage. Yet the obtaining a ſuſpenſion of the ſale of that cargo, till the company could appeal to Europe, coſt an exceſſive ſum to the Spaniſh officers, beſides the loſs of their market, &c.

II) That the cargo of the Elizabeth had an alcavala (or duty) laid on it at Vera Cruz, to a very great amount, though the king of Spain had expreſsly ſpecified that it ſhould pay no duty whatever, on condition that he ſhould enjoy 10 per cent out of the profits thereof: which impoſition he afterward confirmed and extended to all the company's future annual ſhips, though contrary to the 42d article of the aſſiento contract.

III) The king of Spain's ſuſpending the company's new ſhip the Royal George from ſailing this year, after having on board a cargo of near L.300,000 value, which was thereby much damaged, was a very great loſs to the company.

IV) By laying exorbitant duties on the company's ſhip permitted to load fruit at the Canaries for the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies.

V) By laying duties on the purchaſers of the company's negroes.

VI) By conniving at, and permitting, many negroes to be imported clandeſtinely by others, contrary to the aſſiento contract.

VII) By obſtructing the company's officers from loading homeward, either tobacco or cacao, likewiſe contrary to the aſſiento.

VIII) By falſe meaſuring of the company's negroes, and denying juſtice therein.

IX) In delaying juſtice in law-ſuits againſt the Spaniſh officers, for extorting exorbitant fees for the negroes imported by the company.

X) By obliging the company's factors at Panama to pay the duties on ſlaves confiſcated and indulted, contrary to the uſage of former aſſientiſts.

XI) For compelling the company's factors at Panama and the Havanna, to pay a duty of ſix pieces of eight for the burial of each negro.

XII) In denying the company's factors at Buenos-Ayres the lands ſtipulated by the aſſiento contract to be aſſigned them for raiſing cattle, proviſions, &c. and for their negroes.

XIII) Extorting extravagant port-charges there, for the company's ſhips, and obſtructing their purchaſing goods there: with other abuſes at that port, and at Panama.

XIV) The Spaniſh guarda-coſta ſhips ſtopping the company's aſſiento ſhips, and taking from them ſundry things not contraband.

For theſe and ſome other grievances and defects in the aſſiento contract, the company prayed his majeſty to procure redreſs, which he was graciouſly pleaſed to promiſe, when the differences with Spain ſhould be adjuſted.

N. B. By the ſeizure of the company's effects on the breaking out of this war, they are ſaid to have been loſers above L200,000, which was never effectually made good.

In this ſame year, the Dutch coloniſts at Surinam in Guiana are ſaid to have begun to plant coffee; which was then thought to be much better than either the coffee of Martinico or Jamaica.

About this time, according to Biſhop Huet, (in his Memoirs of the Dutch commerce) the Dutch ſent annually to the countries within the Baltic ſea no fewer than 1000 or 1200 ſhips to load the bulky commodities of thoſe northern countries, with which they ſupply many other parts of Europe; ſo vaſt then was, and in a great meaſure ſtill is, their trade to Denmark, Sweden, Ruſſia, Pruſſia, Livonia, &c. within that ſea.

The ſelling or buying of chances, and parts of chances, of tickets in the ſtate-lotteries of Great Britain, being at this time in general practice, a clauſe in an act of parliament for continuing certain duties on coals and culm, &c. prohibited ſuch practices: and alſo all undertakings reſembling lotteries, or being on the footing of a ſtate-lottery, were ſtrictly prohibited, under the penalty of L100, over and above all penalties enjoined by former acts of parliament againſt private lotteries.

The Offenders ſtill continuing their trade to Eaſt-India under the emperor's protection and commiſſions, an act of the Britiſh parliament, of this 5th year of King George, paſſed, for the better ſecuring the lawful trade of his majeſty's ſubjects to and from the Eaſt-Indies, and for the more effectual preventing all his majeſty's ſubjects from trading thither under foreign commiſſions; whereby it was enacted, that whereas it is of great importance to the welfare of this kingdom, that the trade to and from the Eaſt-Indies be regulated according to acts of parliament and the royal charters; and that, particularly by an act of the 9th of King William III, the Eaſt-Indies ſhould not be viſited nor

frequented by any Britiſh ſubjects other than ſuch as might lawfully trade thither, under the penalties therein ſet forth; and that the goods laden from India ſhould, without breaking bulk, be brought to ſome port in Great Britain to be unladen. Notwithſtanding which reſtrictions, and the proclamation of the year 1716, ſeveral Britiſh ſubjects, not intitled under the ſaid laws, have preſumed to trade to India in foreign and other ſhips, to the diminution of his majeſty's cuſtoms, and the trade of this kingdom; wherefor the contraveners are hereby declared liable to all the penalties of the laws in being. And, moreover, the Eaſt-India company is hereby authorized to ſeize on the perſons of all ſuch Britiſh ſubjects as ſhall be found within their limits, and to ſend them priſoners to England: and that all or any Britiſh ſubjects, acting under a commiſſion from any foreign potentate, ſhall forfeit L500 for every ſuch offence. This act was farther continued, by the 5th of *Geo. II, c.* 29, for ſeven years from the 1ſt of May 1732, and to the end of the then next ſeſſion of parliament.

A bill, in the houſe of peers, for continuing a duty on the trade and navigation of this kingdom, and for repairing Dover harbour, met with much oppoſition. The merchants alleged, that this harbour had, for many years paſt, been a burthen to the trade and navigation; although its ſituation was ſuch, that whenever the wind blows hard from the ſea, i. e. from ſouth-eaſt to ſouth-weſt, the entrance of the pier is ſo choaked with ſmall ſtones, waſhed in by the wind and ſea, that very often, at high water, a hoy of 30 tons cannot get in or out, and the packet-boats are liable to the ſame misfortune. That the charges on our navigation, called petty port-charges, were ſo high, that a ſhip of 250 tons paid each voyage L30 ſterling, of which at leaſt L6: 5 was for the repair of this pier and harbour. That the mouth of the pier is but 100 feet in breadth, and the channel much narrower, occaſioned by a lodgment of ſtones: and at the pier-heads the tide runs ſo ſtrong directly acroſs it, that it is both difficult and dangerous to get in or out, ſeveral ſhips having been loſt in the attempt. That the execution of the act for this duty had already coſt upwards of L20,000, although it be much the ſame as before. Neither can it be made of any advantage to any but fiſher-boats and ſmall veſſels uſing the place. Yet the ſame duty was continued, though hitherto to very little purpoſe.

The pirates in the Weſt-Indies, and eſpecially among the Bahama iſlands, being at this time a great obſtruction and detriment to the Britiſh commerce, the king's ſhips, and the proclamation for ſurrendering themſelves by a limited time, had the deſired effect; and the peaceable navigation of thoſe ſeas was reſtored.

In May 1718, new louis d'ors and new ſilver coins were coined in France, which were to paſs for conſiderably more than their intrinſic value, much to the detriment of the commerce of France; and all the

old monies, heavier than this new coin, were called in. And to make this fooliſh and wicked ſcheme appear ſomewhat uniform, the prices of gold and ſilver bullion were hereby to be accommodated thereto. Fooliſh it was, becauſe the monied part of the world was too wiſe not to take advantage thereof, to the detriment of the ſtate; and wicked, as it brought great miſery upon many thouſands of individuals. And in the ſame month and year the king, or rather the duke regent, by letters patent, ordained the capital of the bank to conſiſt of 1200 ſhares, of 1000 crowns each. Yet in the ſame year the king took this bank into his own hands, and publiſhed, 'that he had paid off all the proprietors 'of the ſaid L1,200,000 capital, which ſum, as a farther ſecurity for the 'future juſt management of this now royal bank, he had lodged with the 'general caſh thereof;' yet this ſuppoſed ſum was not in actual caſh, but only in actions of the Miſſiſippi company belonging to the king. This was a part of Mr. Law's ſcheme for bringing about an union of the bank with that company, for the execution of his grand project of paying off the public debts by getting them ſubſcribed into this company. It was no difficult matter for intelligent men to foreſee the ruin of the bank, from the moment of its being called royal, and to foretell, what ſoon after happened, the ruin of vaſt numbers of opulent and honourable families, not only, though principally, in France, but in other parts of Europe, raſhly venturing deep into this project, formed under an abſolute government, which, by a daſh of the pen, could undo every thing at pleaſure. When the old coins were thus called into the mint, it was directed, 'that there ſhould be permitted to be therewith brought into 'the mint, two fifth parts in ſtate bills, becauſe, ſays this extraordinary 'edict, the diſreputation of thoſe ſtate bills has proved an obſtruction to 'commerce and to the circulation of money.' The other wiſe reaſon for this edict was, 'that by thus ſtamping an higher value on the gold 'and ſilver coins of France, gold and ſilver from other countries would 'be brought thither in greater abundance.' The new-coined and overvalued crowns of ſix livres were now ordered to be paid and received at that price in the bank. Yet all this was reverſed towards the end of the following year by arrets, which gradually reduced the new gold and ſilver coins to very near their intrinſic value; as the court ſaw the vaſt detriment, which enhancing the nominal value of the new coins had done to the crown as well as to commerce. Four millions per annum were allotted for the intereſt of ſuch public debts, being 100 millions, as had been already ſubſcribed into the Miſſiſippi company; and, for a farther allurement, that company had the entire farm of tobacco granted to them for nine years; whereupon they ſet about tranſporting great numbers of artificers, planters, labourers, and ſoldiers, to Louiſiana: and a great ſtir and buſtle was artfully made in order to allure people to become

adventurers in the ſtock of this company, already arrived at the price of 120 per cent.

It was found, that the allowances granted by former laws relating to the duties on ſalt, upon exportation of fiſh, much exceeded the duty itſelf on the ſalt uſed in curing the fiſh; for remedy whereof, it was now enacted, [5 *Geo. I, c.* 18] that the curers of fiſh for exportation, inſtead of all former allowances, ſhould be permitted to uſe either foreign or Britiſh ſalt, without paying any duty, excepting the cuſtom on importation of the foreign ſalt; and that ſalt intended to be uſed in curing fiſh, ſhould be warehouſed, and the proprietor ſhould make oath of the quantity, and that it is intended for curing fiſh for exportation only: and after the fiſhing ſeaſon, the remaining ſalt to be again warehouſed, and the proprietor to give an account of the quantity of fiſh exported, on which the ſalt was uſed, and the remaining ſalt to be delivered over to other perſons, for the ſame end: perſons not giving true accounts upon oath, forfeit L40, &c. then follow the allowances to be made by collectors of the ſalt duty to the exporters of fiſh, viz. on pilchards, cod, ling, and hake (wet or dry) ſalmon, white and red herrings, and dried ſprats, certain allowances therein ſpecified, either by the barrel or the hundred weight, or elſe by the number of fiſh, with their ſize, &c. needleſs herein to be ſpecified; it not being our intent to particularize every law relating to the regulation of merchandize, but only to take notice of any great or remarkable alteration, like this of the allowances on ſalted fiſh exported.

1719.—The iſland of St. Lucia in the Weſt-Indies has at ſundry times been inhabited by both Engliſh and French planters at the ſame time: about this time the Mareſchal d'Etrees ſent a colony thither, but our ambaſſador at Paris remonſtrated againſt it with ſuch ſpirit and ſucceſs, that the French court ſent orders to evacuate that iſland for the preſent.

For the farther execution of Law's wicked ſcheme of drawing in the numerous proprietors of the national debts of France to be paid with the Miſſiſippi ſtock and royal bank notes, he was in the beginning of the year 1719 made director general of that bank, in the ſame year creating, in different months, no fewer than 1000 millions of livres, (i. e. between 40 and 50 millions ſterling) in new bank notes; leſs (ſays the royal arret) not being ſufficient for the various operations of the royal bank; though in fact this ſum was more than all the banks in Europe could circulate.

In the meantime, ſtill the more to inveigle mankind, Law perſuaded the regent to unite the French Eaſt-India company to this new Miſſiſippi or weſtern company. The preamble to this edict ſhews the very bad ſtate of their Eaſt-India company's affairs, viz. that notwithſtanding the ſums of money, ſhips, &c. beſtowed on the Eaſt-India company from

time to time, and their many privileges and immunities ſince their firſt erection in the year 1664; yet, inſtead of increaſing their commerce, they had totally abandoned their navigation, and were now about to ſell their excluſive privileges to ſome private perſons for certain allowances; though they might as well have made their commerce profitable to their proprietors and to the kingdom, as the Eaſt-India companies of other nations have done. That though the original fund was not large enough, yet their directors injudiciouſly laviſhed it away, borrowing money afterwards at 10 per cent intereſt. Nay they even paid L.5 per cent per month for the intereſt of the bullion they procured for their eaſtward cargoes, which ſwallowed up all the profits of the voyage. That King Louis XIV ſtill continued his kindneſs to that company; but the Eaſt-Indians complaining that the company did not pay either principal or intereſt of their juſt debts, and that they had not ſent one ſhip to Surat in 16 years time, they being greatly in debt there, from whence cottons and almoſt all the ſpices and drugs of India and Arabia are brought; the ſubjects of France, to their immenſe loſs, are compelled to buy of ſtrangers thoſe and other Indian wares, not only for home conſumption, but alſo for carrying on the trades of Senegal and Guinea; though at triple the prices they would otherwiſe have coſt. Neither is their trade to China better conducted than that to India. For retrieving, therefor, the commerce and honour of France in India, by paying the company's debts (of many millions) there, the king hereby nullifies the privileges of that company, and unites them to this weſtern or Miſſiſippi company, which will thereby be much ſtrengthened. Thus, having before joined the Senegal company to the weſtern one, this newly-conſolidated company will have the four quarters of the world to trade in. For theſe cauſes we have thought proper to unite thoſe companies, and have granted this now united company the abſolutely excluſive commerce from the Cape of Good Hope eaſtward, to all the reſt of Africa, and to Perſia, India, China, Japan, and the iſles, even to the ſtraits of Magellan and Le Maire; they hereby enjoying all the forts, iſles, &c. of the old company, and paying all their debts. How different has the condition of the French Eaſt-India company ſince been from what it was at the time we are treating of?

Moreover, ſays the king's edict, beſides the 100 millions of public debts already ſubſcribed into the weſtern company's capital, there ſhall now be a ſubſcription, in ready caſh, of 25 millions of new actions, each to conſiſt of 550 livres. And this newly-united company ſhall henceforward be called the India company.

In July 1719, 25 millions more of ſtate bills were ſubſcribed into this new India company's capital, which was by this time run a great way above par, and, by the vaſt number of adventurers in that ſtock, the dirty ſtreet called Rue Quinquempoix, was dayly crowded beyond

meaſure. We may here remark, that a great part of the firſt ſtock of this company was ſubſcribed by the king and government alone, which, by the mad running up of the ſtock, was afterward ſold out at 1000 per cent and upwards; and thereby put near 200 millions into the king's coffers: the like was practiſed by Law on the company's own behalf, thereby enabling them to puſh their ſchemes yet farther. In Auguſt 1719, for the farther promoting of ſtock-jobbing, the laſt 50 millions of India ſtock had every ſhare ſplit into 100 ſhares; which brought in the very dregs of the people to be adventurers: whereupon the ſtock roſe to 500 per cent, which again fell to 445 on the bare-rumour of the Sieur Law's indiſpoſition, and roſe again to 610 on his recovery. In the ſame month the king's arret granted the company the general farm of all the revenues, and prolonged their excluſive term to the year 1770: in conſideration whereof the company agreed to lend the king no leſs than 1200 millions of livres (or about 50 millions ſterling) for paying off all the public debts. For this general farm the company agreed to pay 52 millions yearly *, of which the company was to retain annually 36 millions, as the intereſt of the 1200 millions lent to the king, for which vaſt ſum they were to take ſubſcriptions at 3 per cent. In the meantime, the bank was ordered to iſſue 25 millions, in their notes, to the India company, to be ſent to Louiſiana inſtead of coin, for carrying on an extenſive commerce there; a wretched means for that end in lieu of caſh: the company at the ſame time agreed to pay to the king 50 millions for the ſole privilege of the coinage of money for nine years to come. By another arret, the public creditors were permitted to take actions or ſhares of India ſtock in payment of their ſeveral debts; and thus the public debts were all paid off. The people of France eaſily ſwallowed the bait, fondly believing all the fine ſtories which Law and his emiſſaries artfully gave out; and the ſtock in a few weeks more ran up to 1200 per cent, when 150 millions more were added to their capital, by three ſeveral ſubſcriptions at 1000 per cent, to enable them to make good their loans to the king; which 150 millions were permitted to be ſplit into ſuch ſmaller parts as they ſhould take out ſubſcriptions for, whereby the market in Rue Quinquempoix was well ſupplied.

A falſe appearance of an unuſual plenty of money was now obſerved at Paris, whereby all things roſe in price, and lands near Paris were ſold at 50 years purchaſe; and a wiſe purchaſe it was to ſuch as ſold out their ſtock at 1200 per cent, which they very properly termed realizing their ſtock. By ſuch means, Mr. Law's credit was arrived at the higheſt pitch; his levee was crowded with perſons from moſt parts of Europe, preſſing for ſubſcriptions, which now bringing in ſo much caſh to the company, they were enabled to lend the king 300 millions more, at

* This was 3½ millions more than was paid for the general farm by Lambert, whom therefor the king now deprived of it, though ſix years of his grant were unexpired. *A.*

3 per cent. Many were the arts made uſe of for keeping up the price of the now unwieldy ſtock; ſuch as, an arret to enable the company to employ part of their capital for the improvement of manufactures, fiſheries, &c.; alſo, for improving their tobacco farm; for ſupplying the king with all the hemp he ſhould want for his navy; and many other devices too tedious to enumerate. The king, moreover, engaged, not to erect any other company in France but this. And the company, on their part, engaged not to take in any more new ſubſcriptions *, nor to increaſe their capital ſtock. The payments for the new ſubſcriptions were to be by ten inſtallments, each at a month's diſtance; but the new ſubſcriptions ſoon made the old ones fall, for want of money to pay in on theſe laſt; the firſt payment of which laſt new ones was currently ſold at 200 to 300 per cent profit; and yet the old ones were equally good as thoſe of the laſt ſubſcription: but the quantity of the capital ſtock, being now 300 millions, made the old ſubſcriptions fall in price: the company therefor, in order to keep them up, declared they would pay 900 per cent for them, which immediately raiſed them to 1200 per cent; and the laſt ſubſcriptions were about 1300 per cent. Now 300 millions of that ſtock, at the price of 1200 per cent, amounts to 360,000 millions of livres, or about 18,000 millions ſterling †.

From the beginning of November 1719 till about the middle of December following the French India or Miſſiſippi ſtock was in its meridian glory: during which time, more eſpecially, and for ſome time before and after, the city of Paris was crowded with ſtrangers, and with foreigners from different nations, who haſtened thither for dealing in

* This was neceſſary in order to keep up the price of the former ones. *A.*

† Which ſum is perhaps near 180 times as much as all Europe contained of current caſh, ſuppoſing it to amount to 100 millions ſterling: for, as to what is ſhut up in banks, and particularly the bank of Amſterdam, (ſaid, by ſome, to amount to 36 millions) it is not properly the current coin of the country, though it anſwers in commerce as well as if it were, being but a mere depoſit of credit. Yet it is confeſſed to be very difficult to arrive at a juſt diſtribution of the ſuppoſed 100 millions of current caſh amongſt the ſeveral nations of Europe, more eſpecially as we have not met with any former attempt for ſuch a proportional diſtribution thereof, by any author whatever. Yet although, with regard eſpecially to ſome countries of Europe, we be quite upon mere conjecture, we ſhall, however, though with diffidence, venture at it in round ſums, viz.

Britain and Ireland (millions ſterl. money)	16
France	18
The 17 provinces of the Netherlands	12
Germany, Hungary, and Switzerland	9
Spain	8
Portugal	6
Italy, Sicily, and Venice	10
Turkey in Europe	8
Ruſſia	6
Poland	4
Sweden, Denmark, and Norway	3
	100

So that the utmoſt, we think, we can reaſonably ſuppoſe the current caſh of Europe, amounts to 100 millions ſterling; and poſſibly many may conjecture, we have allowed moſt nations, eſpecially the northern ones, too much, and ſome perhaps too little. Our judicious readers will not be ſtartled at our allowing Spain and Portugal ſo ſmall a currency of caſh, who ſupply the reſt of Europe with ſilver and gold; nor for allowing France ſo much, when the annual expenſe of that kingdom is duely conſidered, as well as that of Britain and Ireland; the other nations may be variouſly reaſoned upon with reſpect to the quantum of their caſh, from various conſiderations: as, from the quantity of their commerce and manufactures, from the numbers of their people, from their ſhipping, the number and magnitude of their trading cities, &c. *A.*

this ſtock; inſomuch, that it was currently believed, there might then reſide at Paris half a million of ſtrangers more than uſual, and that 1200 new coaches were ſet up. Nothing to be ſeen but new and ſplendid equipages, new houſes, and finery in apparel; lodgings ſcarcely to be had for money; and the higheſt prices given for proviſions, &c. in that city. Yet, in a few more months after, the very reverſe of all this was ſeen to be the miſerable condition of both city and country.

By an act for ſettling certain yearly funds, payable out of the revenue of Scotland, to ſatisfy public debts in Scotland, and to diſcharge the equivalents claimed on behalf of Scotland, &c. it was enacted, that, for obviating many doubts and difficulties, which the commiſſioners of the equivalent found too hard for them to ſettle, ariſing from the doubtful and various conſtruction of the 15th article of the union of the two kingdoms, the ſum of L248,550 : 0 : 9½ ſhould be a capital ſtock, transferable, attended with an annuity, or annual fund, of L10,000, out of the exciſe and cuſtoms of Scotland, as alſo L600 per annum allowed for charge of management, out of thoſe revenues. The king was hereby empowered to incorporate the proprietors thereof, who ſhould have perpetual ſucceſſion, &c. Yet the ſaid ſtock is to be redeemable by parliament. [5 *Geo. I. c.* 20.] The ſtock remains to this day transferable, and its directors meet weekly at their office in London, being 13 in number, eleven reſiding in London, and two reſiding at Edinburgh. Their charter is dated 11th Geo. on the 21ſt of November 1724. They pay their proprietors 4 per cent per annum.

By this ſame ſtatute, L2000 per annum, out of the revenues of cuſtoms and exciſe in Scotland, was allotted for ever, to be wholely applied towards encouraging and protecting the fiſheries and ſuch other manufactures and improvements in Scotland as may moſt conduce to the general good of the united kingdom, according to the tenor and true meaning of the 15th article of the union. Provided however, that upon payment by parliament of L40,000, the ſaid annuity of L2000 ſhall ceaſe and determine.

The irredeemable debt being at this time thought a dead weight on the public, the miniſtry and parliament were extremely deſirous to get rid of as much of it as they could, at a reaſonable rate: a bargain was therefor now ſtruck with the South-ſea company; whereby, in the firſt place, the blank pay-tickets, and the prizes of the lottery of the year 1710, which were irredeemable annuities for 32 years from 1710, were now to be turned into redeemable principal ſums at 5 per cent intereſt, by an act of parliament of the 5th of King George, for redeeming the fund appropriated for payment of the lottery tickets, which were made forth for the ſervice of the year 1710, by a voluntary ſubſcription of the proprietors into the capital ſtock of the South-ſea company, &c. It

was hereby, in ſubſtance, enacted, 'that whereas the nation at preſent 'pays L135,000 per annum for 23¾ years to come, at chriſtmas 1718, 'to the proprietors of that lottery,'

They were now to have an offer of 11½ years purchaſe in South ſea ſtock, - - - - - - - - - L1,552,500 0 0

And they being 1¼ year in arrear, they had an offer of ſtock for the ſame, being - - - 168,750 0 0

Total South ſea ſtock propoſed to be given, L1,721,250 0 0

And the government propoſing to make, in all, an increaſe of L2,500,000 to the company's capital, by that company agreeing to advance the reſidue in money for the public ſervices, the ſame would be 778,750 0 0

L2,500,000 0 0

The intereſt of which laſt ſum, at 5 per cent, would be, - - - - - - - - - L125,000 0 0

To which add, for charges of management, - 2000 0 0

So there remained L8000 yearly ſaved, (as they then termed it), at the diſpoſal of parliament, which ſaving they made out to be worth L200,000, - 8000 0 0

L135,000 0 0

And as the company's general court in December 1718 had ordered an increaſe of one half per cent to the dividends on their capital for the three ſucceeding half years, over and above the 2½ per cent for each half year, allowed by the public, in order to keep up the old dividend of 6 per cent per annum, the increaſed capital of L2,500,000 ſhould alſo enjoy that benefit, which for 1½ year would be L37,500. This laſt ſum was propoſed to be deducted out of the above L778,750.

Nevertheleſs, many proprietors of the lottery 1710 refuſed to accept thoſe conditions: ſo that of the L135,000, there was only ſubſcribed into the South-ſea company, - - - L94,329 12 0

Which, at 12¾ years purchaſe, made in capital ſtock, - - - - - - - - - 1,202,702 8 0

And, in that proportion, the company was obliged to advance only - - - - - 544,142 0 10

So the total capital added to the company, by this ſcheme, was but - - - - - L1,746,844 8 10

And the company's allowance from the government for their proportion of the above L37,500 was L26,202 : 13 : 4. Laſtly, as L2,500,000 was to L2000, ſo was L1,746,844 : 8 : 10 (the real augmentation of the company's ſtock) to L1397 : 9 : 6, the real annual ſum, due from the public, for charges of management for the ſaid additional capital.

Thus, however, the South-ſea company's capital ſtock was increaſed to L11,746,844 : 8 : 10 from chriſtmas 1718, and their whole annuity to L587,342 : 4 : 5. By this act alſo the whole South-ſea capital was made redeemable, on one year's notice after midſummer 1723, on repayment of their capital. This tranſaction with the public unfortunately laid a foundation (together with the ſad example of the Miſſiſippi ſtock) for the madneſs of the ſucceeding year 1720, of which we are, by and by, to give an account. In the meantime, in July 1719, by way of prelude, the South-ſea company opened a ſubſcription for the ſale of L520,000 of their ſtock, (part of the above addition to their capital) which they now ſold at the price of 114 per cent, whereby they gained L72,800.

A bill was brought into parliament for rendering the laws concerning the importation of naval ſtores from the Britiſh American plantations more extenſive, by extending it to all ſorts of timber from thence. For, whereas in our trade thither, it ſometimes happens, that the crops of tobacco, ſugar, &c. fall ſhort, many ſhips in that caſe are obliged to come home to Great Britain dead-freighted; and ſome remain there a whole ſeaſon, waiting for the next crop; it was therefor imagined by the houſe of commons, that, if encouragement were given for bringing timber, &c. from our plantations, our ſhips would be ſure of a cargo; whereby the demand from our northern colonies for Britiſh manufactures of all kinds, would be greatly increaſed, and their people diverted from farther attempts at manufactures of their own, interfering with thoſe of Britain and Ireland. But the people of the northern colonies were ſo ſurpriſed and diſappointed by ſome clauſes put into that bill, that, rather than they ſhould ſtand part of it, they were very glad to have it dropped altogether. Such, for inſtance, as, that none in the plantations ſhould manufacture iron wares of any kind, out of any ſows, pigs, or bars, whatſoever, under certain penalties: by which clauſe, ſays an ingenious author, on this occaſion, in behalf of the colonies, no ſmith in the plantations might make ſo much as a bolt, ſpike, or nail; whereby the colonies muſt have been brought into a miſerable condition; the ſmith being, above all other trades, abſolutely neceſſary in all other employments there. Amongſt the reſt, that of ſhip-building would have hereby been utterly deſtroyed, although by that article they make a great part of their returns for the purchaſe of Britiſh manufactures. The houſe of peers added another clauſe, that no forge,

going by water, or other work whatſoever, ſhould be erected in any of the plantations, for making ſows, pigs, or caſt iron, into bar or rod iron. This ſecond clauſe, ſays the ſame author, muſt have ruined all the iron works in the colonies, to the great loſs of their proprietors, and have given the French a fair handle to tempt them into their ſettlements which join to ours. The chief oppoſers of the manufacture of iron in our American plantations, were the proprietors of our iron works at home; and our author adds, (what is probable enough, or rather within bounds) that the iron manufacture of England, which is deemed the third of the kingdom, employs 200,000 perſons: that the waſte and deſtruction of the woods in the counties of Warwick, Stafford, Worceſter, Hereford, Monmouth, Gloceſter, and Salop, by theſe iron works, is not to be imagined; and that, if ſome care be not taken to preſerve our timber from theſe conſuming furnaces, there will not be oak enough left to ſupply the royal navy, and our mercantile ſhipping: that within theſe 60 years Ireland was better ſtocked with oak timber than we now are; but the iron works, ſince ſet up there, have in a few years ſwept away the wood to that degree, that they have not ſmall ſtuff enough left to produce bark for their tanning, nor timber for common uſes; inſomuch that at preſent they are forced to have bark from England, and building timber from Norway, &c. and to ſuffer their large hides to be exported untanned to Holland, Germany, &c.: that about 20,000 tons of iron are annually imported to England from foreign parts, over and above what is made at home, for which we pay ready money; and at L12 per ton, comes to L240,000, paid annually to foreigners; and the boards and other timber which we take of them, come to L200,000 more: whereas, our own plantations would be paid for their iron and timber in our own manufactures, thereby evidently bringing a double benefit to the nation: that they have iron-ſtone all along the continent, from the ſouthernmoſt part of Carolina, to the northernmoſt part of New-England, in great plenty; and no part of the world abounds more with prodigious quantities of wood, nor with more rivers and ſtreams: that the Swedes have laid near 25 per cent additional duty on their iron; and that the interruptions of our trade in the Baltic had greatly diſtreſſed our iron manufacturers for want of iron: that by the naval-ſtore laws, now in force, which comprehend only pitch, tar, and turpentine, ſuch great quantities thereof are produced and imported from our plantations, as enables us to export great quantities thereof to the Straits, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Bremen, and Hamburgh: that taking timber and iron, as well as hemp and flax, from our own plantations would employ a vaſt many ſhips and people: that iron, in particular, is a commodity of univerſal uſe, and certain in all parts of the

world, and therefor as much to be valued as gold or ſilver: that the Dutch ſupply Portugal, the Straits, and Turkey, with great quantities of iron; and had we a full ſupply of it from our plantations, we might not only ballaſt our ſhips with it, but export great quantities to thoſe countries, and even to Africa and India: that hemp, another moſt neceſſary naval ſtore, may hereafter be ſo enhanced by the czar of Ruſſia, from whoſe ports we are principally ſupplied with it, as to attempt, like the Swedes, to oblige us to receive it by his own ſhipping, and at his own prices: finally, our greateſt ſecurity and riches flow from our American plantations: and, were they encouraged to raiſe all the naval ſtores we want, how greatly would our riches be increaſed as well as our navigation, people, and power. Our author, however, concludes, that negro ſlaves in our plantations ſhould not be permitted to work in manufactures there, (as certainly many do), but be kept to their original intent for planting and drudgery: and alſo that the increaſe of woollen, &c. manufactures there, interfering with thoſe of our own, ſhould be reſtrained as much as poſſible.

Theſe are points of the laſt importance to our commercial intereſts, wherefor we have enlarged the more upon them, in ſundry parts of this work.

A convention was renewed and enlarged this year between his majeſty of Great Britain and the free and imperial city and republic of Hamburgh, concerning the trade of herrings, &c. viz.

Article I) Hamburgh grants permiſſion for the free importation of herrings caught on the Britiſh coaſts, upon paying the ſame duties of entry as are uſually paid for Flemiſh or Dutch herrings.

II, and III) The Britiſh herrings ſhall be brought into warehouſes, and ſhall be opened in the ſame manner as thoſe of Holland are.

IV) The ſenate ſhall appoint two appraiſers and two packers, who ſhall take an oath of fidelity every year.

V) If the proprietors or their factors come in perſon, they ſhall have liberty to ſell their herrings to any inhabitants indifferently: and if they cannot diſpoſe of them in eight days, to the inhabitants, they may afterwards ſell them to whomſoever they will, or may ſend them whitherſoever they pleaſe.

VI) When the proprietors ſend their herrings to factors, they ſhall be at liberty to chooſe their factors either from among the laudable Engliſh company (i. e. of merchant-adventurers) reſiding in the town, or among the burghers.

VII) His Britannic majeſty's ſubjects ſhall always enjoy the ſame privileges and advantages in the herring trade, as are, or ſhall be, granted to the ſubjects of the ſtates of the United provinces.

VIII) His Britannic majeſty's ſubjects may alſo bring to Hamburgh, ſalmon, ſtockfiſh, cod, and all other ſorts of fiſh, either dried, ſmoaked,

or in barrels, paying the cuſtomary duties. And, in like manner, the inhabitants and burghers of Hamburgh ſhall have free liberty to trade, according to their antient cuſtom, to the provinces of the Britiſh kingdoms; and may carry their merchandize thither, and truck or exchange the ſame for thoſe ſorts of fiſh and other goods.

Done at Hamburgh, 8th February 1719 *.

It was at this time computed, that from the year 1711 to 1719 (both years included) being nine years, there had been exported from England to Eaſt-India, in foreign ſilver bullion, the ſum of L3,786,005, which on a medium is, one year with another, L420,667 annually.

Captain Barlow was ſent out by certain private adventurers †, for the diſcovery of a north-weſt paſſage to China, &c. through Hudſon's bay. But this proved a moſt unfortunate attempt; for neither he nor any of his company were ever heard of. Yet a part of the wreck of his ſhip was ſaid to be found in that bay, in the latitude of 63 degrees north. [*Ellis's Voyage to Hudſon's bay, p.* 78, *ed.* 1748.]

About the cloſe of this year a pamphlet appeared with a propoſal for a ſettlement to be made in the country of Guiana, in South America, by the South-ſea company, upon a plan which the anonymous author alleges he had laid before King William 30 years before. His pamphlet is intitled an Hiſtorical account of the voyages and adventures of Sir Walter Raleigh (from whom he ſays he is deſcended.) But, in our humble opinion, this kinſman of that great man could not have touched upon any part of his adventures which does ſo little honour to him as that wild ſcheme; of which we have ſaid enough in its place. next to the project of a north-weſt paſſage, this unaccountable whim of a ſettlement in Guiana has at different times employed our ſpeculative ſchemers to the leaſt purpoſe.

In this 5th year of King George I a patent was granted to Sir Thomas Lombe for the ſole and excluſive property, for 14 years, of that wonderful machine for ſilk-throwing, ſometime before erected by his brother on the river Derwent, at Derby, by mills, which work three capital engines. This amazingly-grand machine contains 26,586 wheels, and 97,746 movements, which work 73,726 yards of organzine ſilk thread every time the water wheel goes round, being thrice in one minute, and 318,504,960 yards in one day and night. One water wheel gives motion to all the other movements, of which any one may be ſtopped ſeparately, without obſtructing the reſt. One fire engine conveys

* Mr Wich, the reſident at Hamburgh, who negotiated this treaty, wrote home in October 1719, that the quality of the herrings imported this year from Great Britain had proved exceedingly good. *M.*

† According to Dr. Forſter, he and Captain Knight were ſent out together by the Hudſon's bay company. [*Diſcoveries in the north, p.* 58 *of the Engliſh tranſlation.*] *M.*

warm air to every individual part of this vaſt machine, containing in all its buildings half a quarter of a mile in length. The model of it is ſaid to have been taken by Mr. Lombe from the original in Piedmont, under the diſguiſe of a common workman, by ſecretly drawing the plan on paper. Theſe engines have ſaved a great deal of money to the nation, which they formerly paid for organzine, or thrown, ſilk to the Piedmonteſe, altogether with ready money. And (that we may take in all this matter together) the 14 years being run out before Sir Thomas Lombe could make ſufficient advantage thereof, upon his application to parliament in the year 1732, £14,000 was granted to him from the public, as a conſideration for the eminent ſervices he has done the nation, in diſcovering, introducing, and bringing to full perfection, at his own great expenſe, a work ſo uſeful and beneficial to this kingdom: provided, however, that his majeſty may and ſhall direct proper perſons to view the ſaid three engines, and to take an exact model thereof, to be depoſited in ſuch place as he ſhall appoint, to ſecure and perpetuate the ſaid art for the advantage of this kingdom. This ſtatute mentions 'the great obſtruction to this undertaking by the king of Sardinia, in 'prohibiting the exportation of the raw ſilk which the engines were 'made to work'. [5 *Geo. I, c.* 8.]

1720.—We now enter upon the year 1720; a year remarkable, beyond all others, for extraordinary and romantic projects, propoſals, and undertakings, both private and national; as well reſpecting commercial concerns, as the great internal intereſts of two of the moſt potent kingdoms of Europe; which, therefor, ought to be had in perpetual remembrance, not only as being what never had its parallel, nor, it is to be hoped, ever will hereafter; but likewiſe, as it may ſerve for a perpetual memento to the legiſlators and miniſters of our own nation, never to leave it in the power of any hereafter to hoodwink mankind into ſo ſhameful and baneful an impoſition on the credulity of the people, thereby diverted from their lawful induſtry!

We have ſeen in the preceding year, to what extravagant lengths the famous Law had led the duke-regent of France, in order to get clear off the public incumbrances, by giving the unhappy proprietors of the French national debts what, in the end, proved little better than nothing. And we are ſorry to be obliged to add, that we have in part alſo already ſeen our own Britiſh parliament and miniſtry approaching too near, though not intentionally, to ſuch unjuſt and viſionary ſchemes for leſſening the Britiſh national debt, by liſtening to the propoſals of crafty projectors, calculated for deceiving and hoodwinking the proprietors of thoſe debts, by altering or changing the names, ſhape, and poſition, of them, too much reſembling, what is vulgarly called, ſlight-of-hand, rather than for any ſolid leſſening of thoſe incumbrances, as if any other method whatever, conſiſtently with national juſtice and honour, could

leſſen our incumbrances, but a clear and inviolable ſinking fund, the conſequence of the frugal ſavings from the reduction of intereſt; and avoiding of all needleſs expenſe, more eſpecially in times of ſettled peace; and from the increaſe of foreign commerce proportionably increaſing the public revenue. All other methods are an impoſition upon, and a diſgrace to, a nation enjoying liberty and property. Other methods were, however, at this time adopted, to the ruin of many honourable, and, till then, wealthy, families, to the advancement of many low and obſcure perſons, and to the great temporary detriment of our commerce.

The grand point, as already obſerved, which the Britiſh government had now in view, was the reduction of what are called the irredeemable annuities, created at divers times in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne, moſt of them for 99, ſome for 96 and 89 years, and others for ſhorter terms, amounting in all to very near L800,000 per annum. And the managers of the South-ſea company having been ſo ſucceſsful in taking in the greateſt part of the annuities of the lottery of 1710, the miniſtry encouraged the directors of that company to make their propoſals for reducing them all into a redeemable ſtate. It is now become unneceſſary to relate a great deal of what paſſed on this ſubject. In January that company at firſt propoſed to the houſe of commons to give L3,500,000 to the public, for the privilege of taking in all the ſaid irredeemable debts, and alſo the redeemable debts then at the exchequer and bank, moſtly bearing 5 per cent, either by purchaſe from the proprietors or by ſubſcription, into their capital ſtock. This project exciting the jealouſy of the bank of England, the directors of the later on the very ſame day offered above five millions for the ſame privilege. This rivalſhip proved in effect the bane of the whole plan: for a ſecond propoſal of the South-ſea company amounted to no leſs than L7,567,500, in caſe all thoſe debts ſhould be ſubſcribed, and in that proportion for any part of them; and alſo propoſed farther, to pay to the uſe of the public one year's purchaſe of all ſuch of the long irredeemable annuities as ſhould not be brought into their capital. The bank made a ſecond propoſal, more advantageous to the public in ſundry reſpects, and therein obliged themſelves to give L1700 bank ſtock for every L100 irredeemable long annuity. Let any one of common underſtanding conſider one moment, how it could be poſſible for either company to perform what they now propoſed, ſo as not to be loſers themſelves, without egregiouſly deceiving and injuring the proprietors of theſe debts! Was it not therefor moſt unaccountable in any Britiſh parliament and miniſtry to give encouragement to propoſals of ſo obviouſly pernicious a nature?

It ſeems, that, upon the king's arrival from Hanover in November 1719, this ſcheme was laid before the miniſtry by the managers of the

South-ſea company; who, fluſhed with their late ſucceſs, aimed at no leſs than incorporating all the funds of the bank, the Eaſt-India company, and the exchequer, into their own capital. But, though that was not reliſhed, the very rumour of ſome ſuch ſcheme raiſed their ſtock to 126 per cent at the ſhutting of the books for chriſtmas 1719. In concluſion, the South-ſea company's laſt propoſal was accepted in parliament, and a bill brought in for enabling that company to increaſe their preſent capital ſtock and fund by redeeming ſuch public debts and incumbrances as are therein mentioned; for raiſing money to be applied for leſſening ſeveral of the public debts and incumbrances; for calling in the preſent exchequer-bills remaining uncancelled; and for making forth new bills in lieu thereof, to be circulated and exchanged upon demand at the exchequer.

The oppoſers of this bill in parliament in vain urged (what afterward proved but too true) that it was calculated for the enriching of a few, and the ruin of many: that it countenanced the pernicious practice of ſtock-jobbing, thereby diverting the proper genius of the people from trade and induſtry: that the artificial raiſing of South-ſea ſtock ſo high while the bill was depending (viz. to 319 per cent) was a dangerous bait for decoying the unwary to their ruin, by a falſe proſpect of gain, to part with what they had gotten with labour and induſtry, for imaginary wealth: that it would give foreigners an opportunity of perhaps tripling the great ſums they already poſſeſſed in our funds, and would thereby drain the kingdom of its treaſure, when they ſhould realize their ſtock: that a national bargain ſhould be wiſely made, with more advantage to the public than to individuals; but this ſcheme was quite the reverſe; ſince, if South-ſea ſtock ſhould be kept up at 300 per cent, its old members would gain above thirty millions, whilſt the public were to avail themſelves of but a quarter part of that ſum: that although neither of the propoſals of the two rival companies were fit to be received, yet that of the bank was fairer, as they declared plainly what they would give the long annuitants in their ſtock. But if, nevertheleſs, the South-ſea company's propoſals ſhould be accepted, the riſe of their ſtock ſhould be limited, for preventing the pernicious effects of ſtock-jobbing in ſo high a degree as was like to happen. To all which, and much more, ſaid againſt the ſcheme, it was anſwered by the miniſterial advocates, that neither the miniſters nor the company could foreſee this great riſe of the ſtock: for had its price remained as it was when the bargain was firſt ſtruck, viz. at 137 per cent, the public would have been the greater gainer: that the miniſtry had nothing in view, but eaſing the nation of part of its preſent heavy load of debt, and putting the remainder in a method of being gradually diſcharged; and laſtly, that it was but reaſonable, that the company ſhould enjoy the profit of the riſe of ſtock procured by their own prudent conduct, &c.

It is to little purpoſe now to enlarge on the methods then taken by the South-ſea company's managers, for enabling them to execute ſo vaſt a ſcheme; ſuch as, making their dividend warrants at chriſtmas 1719 to carry intereſt till chriſtmas 1720, ſums under L.20 only excepted; obtaining an act of this ſame ſeſſion, for making forth new exchequer-bills, not exceeding one million, at a certain intereſt, and for lending the ſame to the South-ſea company at an higher intereſt, &c. taking in four money-ſubſcriptions for the ſale of their ſtock which they propoſed to gain by the ſcheme; which large money-ſubſcriptions were particularly intended for enabling the company to pay off the holders of ſuch of the redeemable debts as ſhould chooſe to take their principal money, inſtead of ſubſcribing the ſame into that company; and alſo for paying the above great ſum to the public for the privilege of this ſcheme; which laſt ſum was deſtined by this act to be applied, in the firſt place, to pay off all ſuch debts, not included in the company's new capital, as carried 5 per cent intereſt, and afterward to pay off part of the company's capital at 5 per cent. They were alſo hereby empowered to make calls of money on their members, or to open books for ſubſcriptions, or to grant annuities redeemable; or by ſuch other methods for raiſing money as their general courts ſhould direct; ſuch as loans on contracts, bills, bonds, or obligations, under their common ſeal, or on the credit of their ſtock, which hereby was all to be reduced to 4 per cent redeemable at midſummer 1727. And the additional allowance for management was to be in proportion to that allowed for their old capital. Not leſs than one million to be paid the company at any one time: but their trade and privileges were to continue for ever.

The debts propoſed to be taken in were,			
1) Irredeemable long annuities, per annum	L.666,821	8	3½
Ditto ſhort annuities,	127,260	6	1
Making together - - -	L.794,081	14	4

The long annuities originally did not, in general, coſt the proprietors above ſixteen years purchaſe; ſo that the proprietors had already been over-paid their principal with legal intereſt, and yet, after ſo many years elapſed, their preſent market price was conſiderably more than what was originally paid for them at the exchequer; and therefor they were now deemed an incumbrance on the public equal to their current value, and were to be juſtly conſidered in that light only.

For theſe long annuities the company obliged themſelves to allow the proprietors twenty years purchaſe; and fourteen years purchaſe for the ſhort annuities: but the main fallacy was, that the company was not limited in the price they were to put on their ſtock to be given to them. Whereas, on the contrary, the bank's ſecond propoſal obliged

themſelves to offer L1,700 bank ſtock for every L100 per annum of long annuities, and in like proportion for the ſhort ones.

Total ſo valued was - - - L15,118,072 11 0

II) The redeemable debts at the exchequer and bank, carrying 5 per cent intereſt, amounted to L11,779,660: 11: $3\frac{3}{4}$; and thoſe at 4 per cent to L4,766,821 : 15 : $9\frac{1}{2}$. So that if all the public debts aforeſaid, amounting to L31,664,554 : 18 : $1\frac{1}{4}$, had been ſubſcribed, the South-ſea company's capital ſtock would have been increaſed to the ſum of L43,411,399 : 6 : $11\frac{1}{4}$.

The South-ſea directors, who were alſo, by commiſſion, truſtees for taking in the public debts, opened their firſt money-ſubſcription on the 14th of April, for the ſale of two millions of their ſtock at 300 per cent, the market price that day being 325. Some of the directors ſeemed to diſlike this method, as copying too cloſely the Miſſiſippi proceedings: yet the junto of managers judged it adviſeable, for keeping up the price of ſtock. And ſuch was the concourſe of perſons of diſtinction to that ſubſcription, that it was increaſed to L2,250,000, and thereupon it ſoon ſold for double the price of the firſt payment, which was L60, and the ſtock roſe to 340 per cent.

Their next maſter-piece was in a general court, where now were ſeen many of the higheſt rank and quality, to vote a dividend of 10 per cent in ſtock for midſummer half-year 1720, as well to the new ſubſcribers as to the old capital. This dividend was one great cauſe of the enſuing calamities, by occaſioning too high an opinion of the value of the ſcheme.

At the ſame general court it was reſolved to grant money-loans on ſtock, as far as L500,000 (ſecretly enlarged to L900,000) for four months at 5 per cent. There were alſo at this time large premiums given by the agents of the managers for the refuſal of ſtock at very high prices. More money was afterward lent out both on ſtock and on ſubſcription-receipts. On the other hand, the directors were conſtantly ſolicited for more ſubſcriptions, loans, &c. And to ſo great a height was the frenzy already got, that the bare reſolution of the court of directors, on the 28th of April, to receive the irredeemable annuities into their ſtock influenced many of the proprietors of thoſe annuities actually to depoſit their annuities at the South-ſea houſe, and implicitly to ſubſcribe the ſame, before they knew what terms they were to have for them: ſome of whom, nevertheleſs, were the loudeſt afterwards in the clamours againſt the directors.

On the 30th of April a ſecond money-ſubſcription was taken for one million of ſtock at L400 per cent price; and this ſubſcription was, in like ſort, increaſed to L1,500,000.

On the 19th of May the directors declared the terms for the irredeemable ſubſcribed to be,

For the long annuities, thirty-two years purchaſe, and at that rate

they gave them L700 ſtock for each L100 annuity, at 375 per cent, its value being - - - - - L2,625 0 0
And they gave them in bonds and money to the amount of - - - - - - - 575 0 0

The total, as they were thus valued, was - L3,200 0 0

For the other long annuities, called 14 per cents, they gave for each L98 per annum, the ſame ſtock, valued as above L2,625 0 0
And in bonds and money - - - 511 0 0

Total - - L3,136 0 0

And in this proportion for any greater or leſſer ſum of thoſe annuities.

For the ſhort irredeemables, called 9 per cents, which, as well as the blank and prize tickets of lottery 1710, they valued at ſeventeen years purchaſe, they gave the following terms, viz.

The 9 per cents for every L90 per annum, had L350 ſtock at 375 per cent - - - - - L1,312 10 0
And in bonds and money - - - 217 10 0

Total - - L1,530 0 0

For prizes of lottery 1710 for every L100 per annum they had L400 ſtock at 375 per cent, which is - - - L1,500 0 0
And in bonds and money - - - 200 0 0

Total - - L1,700 0 0

For blank tickets of lottery 1710, for every L98 per annum, L350 ſtock at 375 per cent, which is - - - L1,312 10 0
And in bonds and money - - - 353 10 0

Total - - L1,666 0 0

Conſidering the frenzy of this time, it muſt be confeſſed, that theſe terms to the irredeemables were tolerably fair, had the ſubſcribers been allowed the immediate diſpoſal of the ſtock now allotted to them, which was far from being the intention of the junto. We muſt here alſo remark, in favour of the directors, that they gave ſix days time to theſe firſt ſubſcribers to declare their acceptance or non-acceptance of the terms *. So that in this, and moſt of the other tranſactions relating to this great and unparalleled affair, the ſubſcribers, eſpecially in the for-

* The ſtock being above 500 per cent on the 25th of May was a great temptation to accept. *A.*

mer part of the madneſs, were equally acceſſary to their own future loſſes with the conductors of the ſcheme; all ranks and claſſes of perſons eagerly forwarding their own ruin, through an exceſſive thirſt of gain; for, the numerous dealers in South-ſea ſtock and ſubſcriptions, by dayly continuing to buy, in the hope of their ſtill riſing higher, of which riſe they themſelves were the principal cauſe, did undoubtedly lay a temptation in the way of the managers for ſtill growing more extravagant in the conditions of their future ſubſcriptions *. This, nevertheleſs, was by no means a ſufficient vindication of the court of directors, who, as ſworn truſtees for the proprietors, ought to have either ſtopped the unreaſonable riſe of ſtock, or elſe have diſqualified themſelves, and by a public declaration to the world have teſtified their abſolute diſapprobation thereof. Neither indeed was the board of treaſury, who framed the famous act, to be at all juſtified, for not laying effectual reſtraints therein againſt even the bare poſſibility of any unreaſonable riſe of ſtock.

The firſt ſubſcription of the irredeemable debts amounted to - { L427,340 18 9 of the annuities for long terms. 48,132 0 0 of 9 per cent annuities. and 15,988 4 0 of the lottery 1710.

By the dayly riſe of South-ſea ſtock, the fame and credit of the leading directors and managers roſe in proportion. Addreſſes were made to them from perſons of high rank; and, in teſtimony of miniſterial approbation, ſeveral of the directors had the hereditary honour of baronet conferred on them. Yet, very ſoon after, there happened ſuch ſudden fluctuations in their ſtock, ſometimes even in the ſpace of a few hours, as might have given clear indications of its precarious value, notwithſtanding the various arts dayly practiſed to keep it conſtantly riſing. For, though on the 2d of June it got up to 890 per cent, yet that vaſt price bringing many ſellers the day following to Change-alley (now become a ſecond Rue Quinquempoix), it fell before night to 640, and yet the ſame evening roſe again to 770. On the 6th it was at 820, but by the 14th fell to 710. Many were obliged to ſell out their ſtock to enable them to make their ſecond payment on the firſt money-ſubſcription; and ſome began to have their eyes opened by the judicious calculations of Archibald Hutcheſon and others. Theſe alarming conſiderations obliged the managers to lend out great ſums of money on South-ſea ſtock at 400 per cent. Thoſe loans anſwered a double purpoſe, 1*ſt*, by locking up ſo much ſtock as was ſo pawned, and 2*dly*, by

* The author of this work remembers diſtinctly, that farther on in this ſummer a certain director (Mr. Ed——n, long ſince dead) being aſked by a gentleman at Garraway's coffee-houſe, whether the report was true, that the court of directors intended ſoon to open their third ſubſcription at 1,000 per cent, he facetiouſly replied, *Truely gentlemen ſeem to ſtrive to talk us into ſome ſuch price, whether we will or not.* A.

ſupplying the borrowers with the means of buying more; ſo that, though the price of the ſtock was ſomewhat under 800 per cent, the junto ventured ſo far out of their depth as to take a third money-ſubſcription, for the purchaſe of ſtock at 1000 per cent in ten different payments of L100 each, for five millions of ſtock: crowds of people attended at the South-ſea houſe, loudly calling for a new ſubſcription, and even named the ſaid price of 1000 per cent. And, in a few days, their firſt payment of L100 roſe to L400. Of the five millions now paid in for the firſt payment, the managers lent out in one day three millions, for ſupplying the ſtock-market with caſh. A few days after the midſummer ſhutting of their books, the price of South ſea ſtock for the opening of them was at 1000 per cent and upwards, including the 10 per cent midſummer dividend.

Whilſt South ſea ſtock was thus in its meridian glory, the frenzy in part affected the other two great companies by raiſing them greatly above their juſt value, viz. Eaſt-India ſtock to 445 per cent, and bank ſtock to 260 per cent. This riſe was partly occaſioned by the ſellers out of South-ſea ſtock, and alſo out of the bubbles, (as they were juſtly termed) or numerous leſſer ſtocks, at very high prices; who thought their money ſafer in the ſtocks of thoſe two great companies. The advanced prices of all thoſe ſtocks, greater or leſſer, of every kind, were computed, about midſummer 1720, to amount to about 500 millions ſterling; or about five times as much as the current caſh of all Europe. And if the yearly rents of all the lands and houſes in Great Britain do not exceed fourteen millions, and the utmoſt value thereof, houſes and lands together, do not exceed ſixteen years purchaſe on an average, or two hundred and twenty-four millions of money; then here was above double the value of the fee-ſimple of all the immoveable property of the nation in this chimerical traffic; while the real and ſubſtantial traffic of many of the dealers therein was for many months in a great meaſure ſuſpended, or at leaſt much neglected.

On the 4th of Auguſt the ſecond ſubſcription of the irredeemable annuities was taken at the South ſea houſe, viz.

L125,392	17	6	long annuities.
18,750	0	0	nine per cents.
and 14,906	6	0	of lottery 1710.

1ſt, The long annuities, all but the 14 per cents, had L400 South ſea ſtock, and L400 in bonds and money for each L100 per annum, thoſe annuities being now valued at 36 years purchaſe. *2dly*, And for every L98 per annum of the L14 per cents, they gave L420 in ſtock, and L168 in bonds and money. *3dly*, For every L90 per annum of the nine per cent annuities, they allowed L200 ſtock, being $17\frac{7}{9}$ years purchaſe. *4thly*, For every L100 per annum of the prizes of lottery 1710, they gave L200 ſtock, and L150 bonds and money, which was $17\frac{1}{2}$ years

purchaſe. *5thly*, For every L98 per annum of the blank tickets of 1710, they gave L210 ſtock, and L35 in bonds and money, being likewiſe at the rate of $17\frac{1}{2}$ years purchaſe.

At the ſame time there was ſubſcribed L14,393,788 of the redeemable debts, every L100 being taken in or valued at 105, and, on the 12th of Auguſt, South-ſea ſtock being about 910 per cent, the midſummer dividend included, they declared their valuing ſtock at 800 per cent for theſe redeemables ſubſcribed. But, although theſe redeemable proprietors were about 16,000 perſons in number, they were not allowed the choice of withdrawing their ſubſcriptions, after the price was now declared; which made a moſt grievous clamour ſoon after upon the fall of the ſtock.

Many ways were now found neceſſary by the junto to keep up the price of South-ſea ſtock, after thus taking in the proprietors of the public debts at ſuch extravagant rates; ſuch as giving credit for ſix months, at 4 per cent intereſt, for the third payment of the firſt ſubſcription, and the ſecond payment of the ſecond money-ſubſcription, in order to keep a plenty of caſh in the dealers hands, &c.

But of all the raſh proceedings of the managers during the execution of their ſcheme, none proved more quickly fatal than their obtaining of the government, on the 18th of Auguſt, a *ſcire facias* againſt thoſe airy projects called bubbles, which, at this time, were become very numerous, and had greatly advanced in their prices, even after an act of parliament of this ſame ſeſſion [*c.* 17] had paſſed for ſuppreſſing them, intitled, an act for better ſecuring certain powers and privileges intended to be granted by his majeſty by two charters for aſſurance of ſhips and merchandize at ſea; and for lending money upon bottomree: and for reſtraining ſeveral extravagant and unwarrantable practices therein mentioned, as well as a royal proclamation for enforcing the laws againſt them: inſomuch, that Change-alley, like the Rue Quinquempoix at Paris, was dayly crowded from morning till night, as well as the coffee-houſes, with dealers in thoſe bubbles; many of whom, having obſolete and forfeited charters, under that pretext took large money ſubſcriptions for carrying on what they had no right to do. Others of them grafted new and additional projects on their obſolete charters, originally granted for very different purpoſes. A third ſpecies of bubbles, and the moſt numerous, did not even pretend ſo much as to any ſuch obſolete charters, or other authority whatever. It is indeed very true, that the traffic in theſe did greatly promote luxury, idleneſs, and extravagance, in the middling and lower claſſes of people, diverting them from their wonted induſtry and frugality. But the great miſtake of the South-ſea managers concerning thoſe bubbles was their belief that their traffic obſtructed the riſe of South-ſea ſtock; whereas, on the contrary, it was quickly found, that the trade in them was aſſiſting

in keeping up the price of South-ſea ſtock: for, very many of the lower people, not being at firſt able to purchaſe South-ſea ſtock, ran greedily into the bubbles, and even into ſmaller ſhares or parts of them; and, having ſoon gained conſiderably therein, they very often came afterward into South-ſea ſtock and ſubſcriptions. And thus thoſe leſſer currents or rivers were a conſtant ſupply to the great South ſea; but this the managers did not perceive till it was too late.

It appeared, by an inquiry of the houſe of commons in February preceding, that this new humour of new projects or bubbles had been on foot for two or three years paſt; as alſo appeared by a petition in January 1718 for a charter for inſuring ſhips and merchandize, ſigned by near 300 merchants and gentlemen, and that a million of money had been previouſly ſubſcribed for it. Another petition, about the ſame time for a grand fiſhery company, was ſigned by ſeven peers of the realm, and many merchants and gentlemen. A third petition was, in May 1719, by the ſocieties of the city of London for the mines-royal, the mineral and battery works, under certain obſolete charters of Queen Elizabeth and King James I, for mines, &c. for a like patent to inſure ſhips and merchandize, for which L1,152,000 had been ſubſcribed. Theſe were, in the main, the ſame perſons as thoſe in the firſt petition: they petitioned a third time, on the 8th of January 1720 [N. S.], only as ſo many private gentlemen and merchants, (dropping their claim by the obſolete charters) and were in the end ſucceſsful by their preſent name of the Royal-exchange aſſurance company, their capital conſiſting of L500,000. That ſame day, another body of petitioners applied for a patent for inſuring ſhips and merchandize, with a ſubſcription of two millions, and were incorporated alſo in the end, by the name of the London aſſurance company. This laſt company had at firſt two ſeparate ſubſcriptions, which were afterwards united. Their capital at preſent conſiſts of 36,000 ſhares, on each of which L12:10 was originally paid. This was the original riſe of the preſent two very uſeful and flouriſhing inſurance corporations, who alſo are empowered to lend money on bottomree; and each of them afterward obtained charters for inſuring from loſs by fire. Yet neither of them are by the ſtatute, nor by their conſequent charters, excluſive in any reſpect relating to private perſons, who may and ſtill do practice inſurance on ſhips and merchandize as formerly; but with reſpect to all other corporations they are both excluſive; excepting, however, the Eaſt-India and South-ſea companies, both which corporations may ſtill continue to advance money (ſays the ſtatute) by bottomree on their own ſhips.

A third petition of a different body of people was preſented to the king on the 21ſt of January 1720 [N. S.] for an inſurance charter, which did not ſucceed. And,

On the 8th of the ſame month three Engliſh peers, two biſhops, and an

Iriſh peer, with many eminent gentlemen and merchants, petitioned the king, that they might be incorporated for purchaſing and improving forfeited and other eſtates in Great Britain: for granting annuities for lives; and for inſuring lives: ſeeing (continues this petition) this will unite, by intereſt, many of the king's ſubjects againſt the pretender and his adherents forever. In order to which, ſeveral of the petitioners have ſent perſons into Scotland for purchaſing the forfeited eſtates there, and have ſince, by a voluntary ſubſcription to the governor and company of undertakers for raiſing the Thames water in York-buildings, raiſed a joint ſtock of L1,200,000 ſterling: upon the credit of which eſtates they propoſe to grant annuities for, and to inſure on, lives, for the benefit of ſuch of his majeſty's ſubjects as are ſtraitened in their fortunes by the reduction of intereſt: but they did not deſire any excluſive charter. The ſame day alſo, another ſet of gentlemen in vain petitioned for the very ſame purpoſe.

When thoſe petitions for inſurance, &c. came to be referred to, and conſidered by, the crown lawyers, they were oppoſed by counſel on the other ſide, the grand fiſhery ſcheme alone excepted, viz. the inſurance petitioners, by the numerous friends of the private inſurers, and by the amicable ſociety for a perpetual inſurance on lives, with benefit of ſurvivorſhip; which ſociety, their counſel ſet forth, was incorporated in the 5th year of Queen Anne, (1706) conſtituting any number of perſons, not exceeding 2000, to be a body politic, for raiſing a joint ſtock, for the relief of widows and orphans, by granting policies on lives, with annual payments during ſuch lives; on the deceaſe of which lives a certain ſum is paid as a dividend to the proprietors of ſuch policies; and alleging, that theſe petitions for inſurances would prejudice their intereſts.

The petitioners for purchaſing the forfeited eſtates were adviſed by counſel to withdraw their petition, as they might ſafely tranſact all they wanted to do, by virtue of the powers of a charter of the 27th of King Charles II, for raiſing the Thames water in York-buildings; which charter theſe petitioners had purchaſed of the old patentees for L7,000, together with all the benefits of a private act of parliament of the 2d of William and Mary, for incorporating the proprietors of the water-works in York-buildings, and for encouraging, carrying on, and ſettling, the ſaid water-works.

The two firſt petitions for inſurance were, as already noted, approved of, and the crown lawyers reported, that a fiſhery charter, under proper regulations, might be very beneficial to the nation. The fiſhery had been farther favoured by a reſolution of the houſe of commons, on the 27th of April 1720; that the undertaking propoſed to be carried on by the name of the Britiſh fiſhery, wherein the ſea ports and royal burghs are concerned, may be ſucceſsfully carried on, and thereby prevent great ſums from going annually out of the nation; may ſecure a valuable

trade, and may, upon any emergency, furniſh ſeamen to man the royal navy; and therefor highly deſerves encouragement. Nevertheleſs, no charter was at this time granted for the fiſhery; owing to the improbability, if not impoſſibility, of any company being able (unleſs an excluſive one) to carry on a profitable fiſhery: ſince, if private undertakers, being on the northern coaſts, are not as yet able to beat the Dutch out of the fiſhery, it is highly improbable, that a joint-ſtock company, which is never ſo frugally managed as private adventurers manage their own money, ſhould prove ſucceſsful; of which we have a more recent proof at preſent, notwithſtanding the moſt unparalleled parliamentary encouragements.

The two inſurance companies were both incorporated on the ſame day, the 24th of June 1720, the ſtatute in favour of them having had the royal aſſent 14 days before; each having power to purchaſe lands, &c. of L1000 yearly: but no perſon can be either a director or proprietor of both companies at the ſame time. Each company's capital not to exceed L1,500,000: may make calls on their proprietors, without limitation: may create bonds under their common ſeal, for advancing money on parliamentary ſecurity; but for not leſs than ſix months time. Each corporation to pay L300,000 for diſcharging the king's civil liſt debts *. No other corporation ſhall inſure but theſe two; yet private inſurers may act as before: may be determined by the king's charter, if found inconvenient to the public; in which caſe no other corporation ſhall ever be erected in their ſtead with the like privileges. They both have very conſiderable capital ſtocks, and therefor may reaſonably be preſumed a greater ſecurity to our merchants than private inſurers can be fairly admitted to be, how juſt and honourable ſoever their principles and character, and how large ſoever their fortunes in general may be: a liſt being on this occaſion laid before the attorney-general of 150 private inſurers who had failed in but a few years paſt †. It was then alſo urged in behalf of inſurance companies having large capitals, that the merchants of foreign nations in alliance, or at peace, with us would now probably be induced, in great numbers, to make their inſurances at London; and thereby bring an additional benefit to the kingdom. As both the inſurance companies have continued punctually and inviolably to ſuſtain their credit and reputation, this juſt commendation of both of them fell naturally in our way.

The act of parliament before mentioned, for enabling the king to incorporate thoſe two inſurance companies, was alſo expreſsly for reſtraining ſeveral unwarrantable practices therein mentioned; ſeveral ſuch

* Part of the L300,000 was afterwards remitted to each of the companies. *A.*

† Few of theſe inſurers had underwritten more than L50; a ſum which would be thought contemptibly cautious in the preſent day. *M.*

projects of different kinds having, ſince the 24th of June 1718, been ſet on foot in London and other parts of the kingdom, as alſo in Ireland, which manifeſtly tend to the common grievance of the ſubject; the contrivers whereof, under falſe pretences of public good, have preſumed to open books for public ſubſcriptions for the ſame, and have drawn unwary perſons to ſubſcribe large ſums to ſuch undertakings, paying down only ſmall proportions thereof, which yet upon the whole do amount to very large ſums; in many caſes acting as bodies politic, by transferring ſhares, &c. Others acting under charters granted for quite different purpoſes, and others under obſolete charters, become void by non-uſer or abuſer, &c.: which dangerous projects relate to ſeveral fiſheries, &c. wherein the trade, commerce, and welfare, of the people are concerned. For the ſuppreſſion and prevention of which miſchievous practices, it was enacted, that, from the 24th of June 1720, all ſuch undertakings and attempts ſo deſcribed as aforeſaid, and all other undertakings tending to the common grievance, and all public ſubſcriptions, receipts, payments, aſſignments, and transfers, for ſuch matters, ſhould be forever deemed illegal and void, and be liable to ſuch fines and puniſhments as the laws direct. And perſons acting as brokers for others, or for themſelves, either in buying or ſelling, ſhould forfeit L500, and be incapable of acting afterwards as ſuch. But this act did not extend to undertakings ſettled before midſummer 1718*. Laſtly, the two inſurance corporations, hereby eſtabliſhed, are expreſsly reſtrained from lending money to the crown on parliamentary funds, except on the credit of acts of parliament.

The more to inforce this ſtatute, the king, on the very day he paſſed it, viz. on the 11th of June 1720, iſſued a proclamation, ſtrictly enjoining the obſervation of the later part of it relating to thoſe projects vulgarly called bubbles; whereby it might have been expected, that they would have all ſhrunk to their original nothing in a moment. For a few days, indeed, ſome check was thereby given to that frantic traffic: yet, maugre all authority, it ſoon revived, and even increaſed more than ever, and while they dayly advanced in price, every one was a gainer, whereby the lower claſs of people fell into luxury and prodigality, as well as their betters. From morning till evening, the dealers therein, as well as in South-ſea ſtock, appeared in continual crowds all over Exchange-alley, ſo as to choke up the paſſage through it. Not a week day paſſed without freſh projects recommended by pompous advertiſements in all the newſpapers, thereby ſwelled enormouſly, directing where to ſubſcribe to them. On ſome 6*d* per cent was paid down; on others 1*ſ* per cent; and ſome came ſo low as 1*ſ* per thouſand at the time of ſubſcribing. Some of the obſcure keepers of thoſe books of ſubſcrip-

* Sundry undertakings not incorporated, ſuch as the ſeveral fire-inſurance offices, the ſeveral ſubſcriptions to the South-ſea company, &c. were ſaved harmleſs by this clauſe. *A.*

tion, contenting themſelves with what they had got in the forenoon by the ſubſcriptions of one or two millions, (one of which the author particularly well remembers) were not to be found in the afternoon of the ſame day, the room they had hired for a day being ſhut up, and they and their ſubſcription books never heard of more. On others of thoſe projects 2*l.* and 2*l.* 6*s.* per cent were paid down; and on ſome few 10*l.* per cent were depoſited, being ſuch as had ſome one or more perſons of known credit to midwife them into the alley. Some were divided into ſhares, inſtead of hundreds and thouſands, upon each of which ſo much was paid down, and both for them and the other kinds, there were printed receipts ſigned by perſons utterly unknown. Perſons of quality of both ſexes were deeply engaged in many of them, avarice prevailing at this time over all conſiderations of either dignity or equity; the gentlemen coming to taverns and coffee-houſes to meet their brokers, and the ladies to the ſhops of milliners and haberdaſhers for the ſame ends. Any impudent impoſtor, while the deluſion was at its greateſt height, needed only to hire a room near the alley for a few hours, and open a ſubſcription book for ſomewhat relative to commerce, manufacture, plantation, or ſome ſuppoſed invention, either newly hatched out of his own brain, or elſe ſtolen from ſome of the many abortive projects, of which we have given an account, in former reigns, having firſt adverti ſed it in the newſpapers the preceding day, and he might, in a few hours, find ſubſcribers for one or two millions, and in ſome caſes more, of imaginary ſtock. Yet many of thoſe very ſubſcribers were far from believing thoſe projects feaſible: it was enough for their purpoſe that there would very ſoon be a premium on the receipts for thoſe ſubſcriptions; when they generally got rid of them in the crowded alley to others more credulous than themſelves. And in all events, the projector was ſure of the depoſit-money. The firſt purchaſers of thoſe receipts ſoon found ſecond purchaſers, and ſo on, at ſtill higher prices, coming from all parts of the town, and even many from the country. And ſo great was the wild confuſion in the crowd in Exchange-alley, that the ſame project, or bubble, has been known to be ſold at the ſame inſtant of time 10 per cent higher at one end of the alley than at the other end. Amongſt thoſe many bubbles, there were ſome ſo bare-faced, and palpably groſs, as not to have ſo much as the ſhadow of any thing like feaſibility. The infatuation was at length ſo ſtrong, that one project was, in the newſpapers, advertiſed thus: for ſubſcribing two millions to a certain promiſing or profitable deſign, which will hereafter be promulgated.

We can well remember one of thoſe named globe-permits, which came to be currently ſold each for 60 guineas and upwards in the alley, which nevertheleſs was only a ſquare bit of a playing card, on which

was the impreſſion of a ſeal in wax, being the ſign of the globe tavern in the neighbourhood, with the motto or inſcription of ſail-cloth permits, (without any name ſigned thereon), the poſſeſſors thereof being to be hereafter permitted to ſubſcribe to a new ſail-cloth manufactory, projected by one who was then known to be a man of fortune, though afterward involved in great calamities and diſgrace.

Theſe inſtances, out of hundreds more that might be produced, are ſufficient to diſplay the frenzy of the time: when the taverns, coffee-houſes, and even victualling-houſes, near the Exchange were conſtantly crowded, and there was known to be much extravagance therein. The very advertiſements of thoſe bubbles were ſo many, as to fill up two or three ſheets of paper in ſome of the dayly newſpapers for ſome months. Yet, all men were not infatuated: and one advertiſement in a weekly newſpaper well enough burleſqued the madneſs, in the following ſtrain. 'At a certain (ſham) place, on Tueſday next, books will be opened for 'a ſubſcription of two millions, for the invention of melting down ſaw-'duſt and chips, and caſting them into clean deal boards without cracks 'or knots!'

Before we return to the remainder of the execution of the grand South-ſea ſcheme, we ſhall, as an uſeful warning to poſterity, here exhibit a more complete catalogue than any we have ſeen, of the ſtocks, ſubſcriptions, projects, or bubbles, of this unparalleled time, with their higheſt prices in Exchange-alley, before the fatal *ſcire facias* had (like the touch of Ithuriel's ſpear) reduced them all to their proper ſize and value!

	Original money paid in or due.				Higheſt prices ſold for in 1720.		
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1) South-ſea ſtock -	100	0	0	—	1000	0	0
Ditto 1ſt money-ſubſcription, at 300 per cent	120	0	0	—	750	0	0
2d do. at 400 per cent	80	0	0	—	600	0	0
3d do. at 1000 per cent	100	0	0	—	440	0	0
4th do. at 1000 per cent	200	0	0	—	245	0	0
Eaſt-India capital ſtock L3,200,000 - -	100	0	0	—	445	0	0
Bank of England capital, then L5,559,995 14/8 - - - - -	96	13	5½	—	260	0	0
This was the bank's nominal or transferable capital: yet the government actually owed them							

	Original money paid in or due.				Higheſt prices ſold for in 1720.			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
no more than L5,375,027 17/10½, (till the year 1722, when they purchaſed 4 millions of the South-ſea company) whereby L100 bank ſtock, as due from the public, was now really no more than L96 13/5½. So that all its advanced value muſt and did ariſe from the profits of banking!								
Royal African ſtock, old capital L400,000, additional one L1,600,000	23	0	0	—	200	0	0	
II) Million-bank, L500,000 - -	100	0	0	—	440	0	0	
York-buildings company, L1,200,000 -	10	0	0	—	305	0	0	
Luſtring company, 10,000 ſhares, valued at L1,200,000, not worth one farthing, - - -	5⅛	0	0	per ſhare	120	0	0	per ſhare
Engliſh copper company, - - - - - - -	5	0	0	per ſhare	105	0	0	per ſhare
Welch copper company, worth nothing at all,	4⅛	0	0	per cent	95	0	0	per cent
Royal fiſhery company, worth nothing,	10	0	0	per cent	25	0	0	per cent
(N. B.—The Hudſon's-bay company's capital being ſo ſmall as about L110,000 was engroſſed by ſo few, that it was not known what its price was at that time.)								
III) Note alſo, that beſides the great legal companies, whoſe ſtocks were uſually tranſacted in Exchange-alley, there were, and ſtill are, ſome whoſe								

	Original money paid in or due.				Higheſt prices ſold for in 1720.			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
capitals are too ſmall to come thither, and do therefor vary but little in price; ſuch as, the New-river company; the London-bridge water company; the Shadwell, Hampſtead, Southwark, and Chelſea, water companies. Alſo the Sunfire-office inſurance: ſundry alſo of obſolete joint-ſtock corporations, ſo far ſunk and deſerted, that their ſtock at this time bore no price at all: ſuch were,								
The mine-adventurers company of England,								
The ſword-blade company,								
The frame-work knitters company, and								
The charitable corporation for pledges.								
IV) For local and particular purpoſes, viz.								
For making the river Douglas navigable, -	5	0	0	per ſhare	70	0	0	per ſhare
For freſh water brought to Liverpool, - - -	10	0	0	—	20	0	0	per ſhare
Temple-mills braſs-works, - - - - -	10	0	0	—	250	0	0	per ſhare
Fiſh-pool, for bringing freſh fiſh by ſea to London (Sir Richard Steele's)	—		—	—	160	0	0	per ſhare before any money paid.
Harburg company (for bringing commerce thither from Hamburg, and for a lottery there, 1,500,000 nominal capital) - - - - -	15	0	0	per cent	120	0	0	per cent

	Original money paid in or due.				Higheſt prices ſold for in 1720.			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Puckle's machine gun, called the defence, -	4	0	0	per ſhare	8	0	0	per ſhare.
Another Harburg ſubſcription, (Burges's) ineffectual.								
V) Projects or bubbles, having neither charter nor act of parliament to authorize them: none of which were under one million, and ſome went as far as ten millions: very many whereof are diſtinctly remembered by the author of this work, how ridiculous and improbable ſoever they may now ſeem to many not acquainted with the infatuation of that year, viz.								
The Orkney fiſhery,	25	0	0	per ſhare	250	0	0	
Globe permits, (for ſubſcribing ſome time or other, to a project for a ſail-cloth manufacture)	—		—	—	70	0	0	
For building ſhips to let to freight, - - -	1	0	0	per ſhare	15	0	0	
For raiſing hemp and flax at home, - - -	0	2	6	per ſhare	1	10	0	
Another, in Pennſylvania, - - - - - -	2	10	0	per ſhare	28	0	0	
Improvement of land, (Sir John Lambert's)	5	0	0	per ſhare	20	0	0	
For a whale fiſhery (by do.) - - - -	0	10	0	per cent	3	10	0	
National permits for a fiſhery, (Geo. James's) 50,000 permits, at L6 each, - - - - -	5	0	0	per ſhare	60	0	0	Each permit before any money paid down.

	Original money paid in or due				Higheſt prices ſold for in 1720.			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Salt to be made at Holyhead, (two millions),	5	0	0	per ſhare	15	0	0	
For ſettling the Bahama iſlands, (L6000 had actually been paid in on this project, in which many eminent perſons were ſufferers, as appeared by their petition to parliament, Feb. 1723-4, which was rejected, becauſe it would have brought endleſs petitions of that ſort, for redreſs of ſuch grievances), - - - - - -	3	0	0	per ſhare	40	0	0	
The grand fiſhery, (ſo named), - - - -	0	10	0	per ſhare	5	0	0	
A bottomree company, - - - - - - -	1	0	0	per ſhare	3	0	0	
Weſtley's auctions, (i. e. actions), for buying and ſelling of ſtocks, -	7	10	0	per ſhare	100	0	0	
General inſurance from fire, L1,200,000 -	0	2	6	per ſhare	8	0	0	
Royal-exchange aſſurance, L500,000, valued at L2,500,000 - - -	Sundry payments				250	0	0	per cent
London aſſurance company, 36,000 ſhares, L12 10s each, valued at L3,600,000 once, -	Ditto				175	0	0	per ſhare

N. B.—Some of theſe foregoing bubbles, we may ſee, were ſold at above ſix times the money paid in on them: others very near as high, and all ſhamefully and madly raiſed. It would be endleſs to hunt for the prices of many more, which were the mere embryos of a few days, though they drew in many unwary perſons to their undoing. We ſhall therefor content ourſelves with exhibiting a bare liſt of them in the following catalogue, viz.

VI) Fiſheries.
1, Cawood's North-ſea fiſhery.
2, Britiſh fiſhery.
3, A royal fiſhery, for ten millions.
4, 5, Two more Greenland or whale fiſheries.
6, A grand American fiſhery.
7, Garraway's or Pillan's fiſhery.
8, The free fiſhery.
9, A coral fiſhery.
10, Wrecks to be fiſhed for on the Iriſh coaſt.
11, Another Greenland fiſhery.
12, Orkney fiſhery.

VII) Salt.
1, Another ſalt project, beſides one already mentioned.
2, Rock-ſalt project.
3, Saltpetre to be made.
4, Salt-pans in Holy iſland, two millions.

VIII) Inſurances.
1, Saddler's-hall inſurance, afterward united to the royal-exchange ditto.
2, Inſurance of horſes and other cattle, two millions.
3, Inſurance and improvement of children's fortunes.
4, Inſurance of houſes and goods in Ireland, with an Engliſh earl at the head of it.
5, Inſurance againſt loſſes by ſervants.
6, Friendly ſociety for inſurances.
7, Britiſh inſurance, ſo called.
8, Shales's inſurance.
9, Inſurance againſt theft and robbery.
10, Ditto for inſuring ſeamen's wages.

IX) For making fire-engines.

X) Remittances of money.
1, General remittance and inſurance of debts.
2, Stogdon's remittances.

XI) Water companies.
1, An engine to bring freſh water into the town of Deal, in Kent.
2, A project to bring water by a new canal from St. Albans to London.
3, Another, from Rickmanſworth to London.
4, To make ſaltwater freſh.

XII) Sugar.
1, Refining of ſugar.
2, Bleaching or whitening coarſe ſugar, without fire.

XIII) For building hoſpitals for baſtard children.

XIV) America.
1, For ſettling the iſland of Santa Cruz in America.
2, — Ditto, for the iſlands of Blanco and Sal-Tortuga in Ditto.
3, Trade to the river Oronoko.
4, Ditto to Nova-Scotia, two millions.
5, Ditto to the Golden iſlands, Sir Robert Montgomery's.
6, Ditto for importing naval ſtores from Nova-Scotia and Virginia.
7, Ditto for walnut-tree from Virginia, two millions.
8, Ditto for hemp and flax from Pennſylvania.
9, Ditto for beaver fur, two millions.
10, Ditto for pitch and tar from America and Scotland.
11, Ditto for importing and exporting tobacco, four millions.
XV) Buildings.
1, Building and rebuilding houſes in England.
2, For purchaſing grounds to build on in London.
XVI) Lands.
1, For meliorating lands.
2, For improving lands in Great Britain, four millions ſubſcribed.
3, Ditto in Flintſhire, one million ſubſcribed.
4, For improving the breed of horſes, and the improvement of glebe and church lands, &c.
5, Planting madder.
6, Improving gardens.
7, For purchaſing and improving lands.
8, Ditto for a royalty in Eſſex.
9, Ditto for fenny lands in Lincolnſhire.
10, Ditto for improving tillage and cattle.
11, Another for the breed of horſes.
12, Another for purchaſing the forfeited eſtates, (Sir James Hallet's,) L1,200,000 ſubſcribed.
13, For the corn trade.
XVII) For erecting turnpikes and wharfs.
XVIII) For dealing in hops.
XIX) For building ſhips againſt pirates.
XX) For buying naval and victualling ſtores, for the uſe of the royal navy.
XXI) Oil-bubbles.
1, An oil-patent, with land ſecurity.
2, Rape-oil ſubſcription.
3, Beech-oil, Aaron Hill's project.
4, For making oil from poppies.
5, Ditto from ſun-flower ſeed.
6, Ditto from raddiſh ſeed.

XXII) For the corn trade.
XXIII) For drying malt with hot air.
XXIV) For improving malt liquors, four millions
XXV) For recovering ſeamen's wages.
XXVI) For working tin plates, or whited iron plates *.
XXVII) Harbours and rivers.
1, For repairing Moriſon's haven.
2, For an engine to take up ballaſt.
3, For making the river Dee, in Cheſhire, navigable.
4, Ditto for the river Douglas.
XXVIII) For cleanſing and paving London ſtreets, two millions
XXIX) Supplies for London, viz.
1, For ſupplying London with ſea-coal, three millions
2, ——————— with cattle.
3, ——————— with hay and ſtraw.
4, ——————— paving its ſtreets, two millions
XXX) Weſt's permits for buying and ſelling ſtocks.
XXXI) Hemp, flax, and their manufactures, viz.
1, For planting hemp and flax in Scotland and Ireland, and making ſail-cloth, cordage, &c.
2, and 3, Two other different ſail-cloth ſubſcriptions.
4, For the Holland and ſail-cloth manufactures.
5, For the cambric and lawn manufactures.
6, Sail-cloth in Ireland.
XXXII) For the ſilk and cotton manufactures, viz.
1, For raiſing ſilk-worms.
2, Another for planting mulberry trees, and breeding ſilk-worms in Chelſea park, by Sir Richard Manningham, where 2000 of thoſe trees were actually planted, and many large expenſive edifices were erected; the remains whereof are ſcarcely now to be ſeen.
3, For making muſlin.
4, For improving the cotton, and the ſilk and cotton, manufactures.
5, Another for improving the ſilk manufacture.
XXXIII) Metals, mines, and minerals, viz.
1, For making iron and ſteel in Great Britain, four millions.
2, For improving Engliſh iron and ſteel.
3, For extracting ſilver from lead.
4, For improving the tin mines of Cornwall and Devonſhire.
5, For tranſmuting quick-ſilver into a malleable and fine metal.
6, For ſmelting lead.

* This manufacture, which we formerly had entirely from Germany, has ſince the year 1720 been brought to great perfection in Monmouthſhire and elſewhere in England, the Engliſh tin-plates being now more durable and beautiful than any foreign ones. *A.*

7, For milling lead.
8, For improving Mr. Wood's iron works and manufactures.
9, For improving the lead mines in Glouceſterſhire.
10, For importing Swediſh iron.
11, For improving Engliſh copper and braſs.
12, For improving the Derbyſhire mines.
13, Ditto for the Jamaica mines.
14, For improving the Britiſh alum works.
15, For making iron with pit-coal.

XXXIV) For making china-ware and delft-ware.

XXXV) For importing a number of large jack-aſſes from Spain, in order to propagate a larger kind of mules in England, for which purpoſe marſh lands were treating for near Woolwich. A clergyman, long ſince dead, was at the head of this bubble.

XXXVI) For trading in human hair.

XXXVII) Ditto in Flanders' lace.

XXXVIII) For fattening hogs.

XXXIX) For preparing tobacco for making ſnuff.

XL) For purchaſing, or recovering, eſtates illegally detained.

XLI) For a more inoffenſive method of emptying or cleanſing neceſſary houſes.

XLII) For better curing the venereal diſeaſe.

XLIII) A ſubſcription advertiſed, and actually opened, for an undertaking, which ſhall in due time be revealed.

XLIV) For importing timber from Germany.

XLV) Ditto from Norway.

XLVI) For a trade to his majeſty's German dominions.

XLVII) For the exportation of our woollen manufacture, and the importation of copper, braſs, and iron.

XLVIII) For the more effectual making of Colcheſter bays.

XLIX) For employing the poor. (Lawr. Braddon)

L) For employing poor artificers, and furniſhing merchants with money.

LI) For lending money to merchants to pay their duties; for purchaſing government ſecurities; for granting annuities for lives; and for building ſhips to let to freight.

LII) For lending money on ſtocks, annuities, &c.

LIII) Another ditto for lending money at intereſt.

LIV) Another ditto for the encouragement of the induſtrious.

LV) For making glaſs bottles.

LVI) For making coach glaſſes and looking glaſſes, two millions.

LVII) For making pitch, tar, turpentine, &c.

LVIII) For making pantiles.

LIX) For making ſoap.
LX) For making Joppa and Caſtile ſoap.
LXI) For making Manchester ſtuffs, cottons, and tapes.
LXII) For a grand diſpenſary, three millions.
LXIII) For a wheel for a perpetual motion.
LXIV) For loading and entering goods at the cuſtom-houſe.
LXV) For trading in, and improving, certain commodities of this kingdom, three millions.
LXVI) For a trade to Barbary. (Jezreel Jones's)
LXVII) For making paſteboard and packing-paper.
LXVIII) Another for the paper manufacture.
LXIX) For making ſtarch.
LXX) For building and rebuilding houſes throughout England, three millions.
LXXI) For furniſhing funerals.
LXXII) Another for buying and ſelling lands, and lending money at intereſt, five millions.
LXXIII) Loan offices for encouraging the induſtrious.
LXXIV) For the clothing, felt, and pantile, trades.
LXXV) Inſuring, and increaſing, children's fortunes.
LXXVI) For importing oils and other materials for the woollen manufactures.
LXXVII) For paying penſions to widows, &c. at a ſmall diſcount, two millions.
LXXVIII) For employing poor artificers, furniſhing merchants, &c. with watches.
LXXIX) For inſuring maſters from the loſſes ſuſtained by ſervants, three millions.
LXXX) Timber from Wales.

Although this be the largeſt collection of the bubbles of this year, yet I am perſuaded there are ſome omitted, which I have not been able to recollect: ſome may poſſibly think this collection of them too prolix; yet I apprehend, that to many readers they may be a curioſity, and to poſterity an uſeful *memento:* and it is even poſſible, that out of ſo many as conſiderably above 200 ſuch abortive ones, ſome improving genius may hereafter luckily render ſome of them practicable and uſeful; as has been the caſe already with reſpect to the tinned-plate manufacture, &c. yet of all the above numerous projects, only four, properly ſpeaking, exiſt at preſent, viz. the two aſſurance companies, by legal new charters, the York-buildings company, (if it may be ſaid ſtill to exiſt) and the Engliſh copper company, its charter being found legal.

Many of the above bubbles were indeed ſo nonſenſical and abſurd, appearing even from their very titles, as it might be imagined could only draw in the moſt ignorant part of the people; yet even thoſe had a very

conſiderable run, much money being got and loſt by them: and as for the great bulk of them, there were almoſt incredible numbers of tranſactions in them dayly and hourly, for ready money, and moſtly at very advanced prices; as may partly be conceived by thoſe whoſe higheſt prices we have ſet down. Moreover, great numbers of contracts were made for taking many of them at a future time; and alſo for puts and refuſals of them, at very high prices; more eſpecially in the York-buildings company; in the temple mills, braſs manufacture; in the two copper companies, &c. in the books of one of which, viz. the Welch copper company or bubble, long ſince come to nothing, I have ſeen ſome hundreds of contracts regiſtered, according to act of parliament, at very extravagant prices. And it is much to be lamented, that perſons of high rank and dignity placed themſelves at the head of many of thoſe even illegal projects: ſo great was the infatuation of this time.

The fatal writs of *ſcire facias* at length were iſſued, on the 18th of Auguſt, againſt the following pretended companies, viz. the York-buildings company, luſtring company, the Engliſh copper and Welch copper companies, expreſsly by name, and in general againſt all other projects promulgated contrary to law; and the crown lawyers were directed to proſecute all ſuch as had opened books of ſubſcriptions, and all who ſubſcribed to them, or who made or accepted any transfer in them.

It was apprehended by many thinking people, that the general infatuation might laſt till winter, when, it was imagined, it would inſenſibly ſubſide of itſelf. But the earneſtneſs of the South-ſea junto to obtain the *ſcire facias* brought it ſooner to an iſſue, though very differently from what they aſſuredly expected. The publication of it by authority, in the London gazette, inſtantly ſtruck ſo general a panic amongſt the conductors of all the undertakings, projects, or bubbles, that the ſuddenneſs as well as greatneſs of their fall was amazing. York-buildings ſtock, for inſtance, fell at once from 300 to 200; and in two days after, neither it nor the other three undertakings, expreſsly named in the *ſcire facias*, had buyers at any price whatever. The more barefaced bubbles of all kinds immediately ſhrunk to their original nothing: their projectors ſhut up their offices, and ſuddenly diſappeared; and Exchange-alley with its coffee-houſes were no longer crowded with adventurers, many of whom having laid out their ſubſtance in thoſe airy purchaſes, now found themſelves utterly undone; while, on the other hand, ſuch as had dealt in them to great advantage, became extremely ſhy of owning their gains. This ſtate of things, however calamitous it might appear, was but the prelude to the grand calamity which ſoon enſued by the fall of South-ſea ſtock and ſubſcriptions. For when the *ſcire facias* came abroad, that ſtock was at 850 per cent for the opening of the books in Auguſt, including the midſummer dividend; but, from that time foward, it gradually declined in price, though with many

great fluctuations, occaſioned by the various arts and endeavours of the junto to keep it up; ſome of the particulars whereof have, in part, been mentioned already. At the opening of their books, on the 22d of Auguſt, the ſtock was at 820 per cent; and two days after, the directors opened a fourth money ſubſcription for the purchaſe of L1,250,000 ſtock at 1000 per cent, whereof 200 or (20 per cent) was paid down; the remainder to be in four equal half-yearly payments of L200 each, though afterward altered to eight different payments of L100 each. This ſubſcription was alſo much crowded, and was completed in three hours time, and ſold that ſame evening at 40 per cent advance, but this advance was not laſting; for though the managers now lent out large ſums of money, for ſix months, on their ſtock, valuing it only at 400 per cent, and at ſo moderate an intereſt as 4 per cent, yet the ſtock could not be kept up to 800. Moreover, the laſt ſubſcribers of the public debts, both irredeemable and redeemable, began to murmur on account of the high prices at which they had ſubſcribed into the ſtock; and alſo becauſe their ſtock was not as yet brought into their names, but artfully poſtponed from time to time. Numbers alſo, who had contracted for ſtock for the opening of the books, at much higher prices than the ſtock now ſold at, joined in thoſe complaints, of whom not a few were perſons of high rank and quality: all which was not a little heightened by the numerous ſufferers by the leſſer ſtocks and bubbles. The court of directors now ſaw their miſtake, but too late, in procuring the *ſcire facias*, but inſtead of healing and moderate meaſures, they, on the 30th of Auguſt, in order to raiſe the expectations of men to the higheſt pitch, declared, that 30 per cent in money ſhould be the dividend for the half year which would be due at chriſtmas following; and, to fill up the meaſure of their extravagance, that, for the next ſucceeding twelve years, not leſs than 50 per cent in money ſhould be the annual dividend on their ſtock. However romantic this laſt declaration may at preſent ſeem, it was but barely correſponding with the price of their two laſt money ſubſcriptions. Had all the remaining public debts been taken in at the price of the laſt ſubſcription, and had the four ſets of money ſubſcribers duely made good all their payments, and, moreover, had the company been able to ſell all their remaining ſtock at 1000 per cent, or higher, and their loans of money had all been duely repaid, upon theſe ſuppoſitions, the company might poſſibly have been able to have made ſo vaſt a dividend, for at leaſt part of the twelve years; but that would have been attended with the certain and grievous future loſs in their principal as well as intereſt. However, even this pompous declaration was able only for two days, viz. till the 1ſt of September, to raiſe the ſtock from 780, to 810, from which laſt day it gradually ſunk to the 8th of that month, when it was at 680: whereby it plainly appeared, that none believed the dividends could prudently and rationally take place. Yet, on the 8th of

September, a general court, crowded with perſons of diſtinction, gave thanks to the court of directors for their prudent and ſkilful management; and even fulſome commendations were added by ſome members of both houſes of parliament. Thoſe panegyriſts then told the directors, 'that they had laid aſleep all our domeſtic animoſities, and had reconciled all parties in one common intereſt, (i. e. money-getting) that 'they had increaſed the fortunes of the monied men, whilſt they had 'been the means of doubling the value of land-eſtates.' It was indeed true, that for a few months, ſuch as had ſold out at high prices, eagerly coveting to purchaſe land with the money, occaſioned lands to be ſold at 35 to 40 years purchaſe; and ſome for ſomewhat more, as happened at Paris the year before; which might have been warning ſufficient to our ſchemers. Yet, in the ſpace of a few weeks after, thoſe very perſons were for hanging up all the court of directors. On the 20th of September the ſtock was fallen to 410, when a general court agreed to reduce the term of the laſt ſubſcribers of the public debts to the price of 400 per cent, as alſo of the 3d and 4th money-ſubſcriptions from 1000 to 400 per cent. It was alſo hinted that the bank had agreed, or would agree, to take a quantity of their ſtock at 400 per cent, in payment for L3,775,000 redeemable debt, for which the South-ſea company was to pay off the bank. This was afterwards called the bank contract, the very ſurmiſe of which had run up South-ſea ſtock on the 12th of that month to 675, which, however, fell the next day to 550. It was afterward denied to have ever been executed as a legal contract; but had only been diſcourſed of between ſome miniſters of ſtate and the two companies: but though it never took place, it certainly drew in many new purchaſers of ſtock, to their great loſs, and, for that reaſon, occaſioned much noiſe and ſcribbling, though long ſince buried in oblivion. The frailty of the whole South-ſea ſcheme now hereby alſo plainly appearing to all, the ſtock, on the 29th of September, had fallen to 175 per cent; and their bonds were at 25 per cent diſcount; whereupon there appeared great uneaſineſs and clamour among the monied men, which produced a great demand for caſh at the bank, and a greater one on the private bankers, who had generally lent out much of their caſh on South-ſea ſtock and ſubſcriptions, whereby ſeveral very ſubſtantial ones were obliged to ſtop payment for ſome time. And now, juſt when drowning, all people began ſeriouſly to reflect on the calamities brought on France, but a few months ſooner, by the famous Miſſiſippi ſtock or bubble; and to draw a melancholy parallel; which reflections, made a few months ſooner, would have ſaved many a worthy family from diſtreſs: great clamour was alſo raiſed on account of contracts at high prices, for the 3d and 4th money ſubſcriptions performable on delivery of the company's receipts, though no receipts had ever been iſſued for them. At a general court, on the 30th of September, the ſuppoſed contract with the bank was again mentioned as a poſitive agreement, at 400 per cent for South-ſea ſtock, which now, therefor,

from 130 roſe to 320, but could by no methods be kept ſo high: the faſcination was over, and therefor it fell dayly, more eſpecially when it was known after all, that the bank contract was no reality, but a mere temporary, and very unjuſt, expedient to quiet the clamours of the people.

At this general court, alſo, the redeemable debts, before taken in at 105 for 100, were now reduced to 100; and, inſtead of the former allowance of ſtock at 800 per cent, they were now allowed ſtock at 400 per cent, with the midſummer dividend of 10 per cent in ſtock.

The ſecond ſubſcription of irredeemables was made equal to the firſt; and the third and fourth money ſubſcriptions were reduced to 400 per cent in ſtock: and the 10 per cent in ſtock was allowed to them all.

It was then thought very hard on the bank (if ever really intended) to be forced into a bargain ſo diſadvantageous, merely for helping their rivals out of the mire. And now, towards the cloſe of this year of marvels, were ſeen the great loſſes of many families of rank, and ſome of great quality, and the utter ruin of merchants before of great figure, and alſo of certain eminent phyſicians, clergymen, and lawyers, as well as of many eminent tradeſmen: ſome of whom, after ſo long living in ſplendour, were not able to ſtand the ſhock of poverty and contempt, and died of mere heart-break; others withdrew to remote parts of the world, and never returned.

Many expedients were at this time ſtarted, for the relief of the ſufferers by South-ſea ſtock; among others, an ingraftment of 18 millions of that ſtock into the other two great companies, 9 millions into the bank, and 9 millions into the Eaſt-India ſtock; which occaſioned warm debates in the general courts of thoſe two companies, who at length agreed to it. Yet, though an act of parliament, of the 7th of King George, confirmed it, it was never carried into execution. The South-ſea company alſo, in their diſtreſs, petitioned the king for a grant of that part of the iſland of St. Chriſtophers, in the Weſt-Indies, which France had yielded to us by the treaty of Utrecht; as alſo of the country of Nova-Scotia, which, they alleged, would be very much to the advantage of their trade, and to the king's revenue: but, though they did not ſucceed therein, they proved ſucceſsful in their applications to have a remiſſion by the legiſlature of the entire ſum they were bound to pay for taking in the national debts: whereby the public was deprived of all the benefit hoped for from that ſcheme, except reducing the irredeemable debts into a ſtate of redemption. This remiſſion however was thereby granted; with a proviſo, that from midſummer 1722 two millions of the company's capital ſtock ſhould be annihilated, for the benefit of the public. Yet, by the act of the 9th of that king, which divided their capital into two equal moieties, the ſaid two millions capital ſtock was again reſtored to the company from the term of midſummer 1722.

We muſt again return back to the French ſtock-jobbing or bubble affairs of this year 1720. In February, an arret came out for uniting their bank to their India company, (now eſtabliſhed in perpetuity) as we have already ſeen the later united to the Miſſiſippi company, and the appellation of Miſſiſippi ſunk in the more general name of the India company. The arret ſets forth, 'that, as this bank is royal, the king 'is bound to make good the full value of its notes or bills; and that, 'as there is a great connection between the operations of this bank 'and thoſe of the India company, he commits to the later the go-'vernment and profits of the bank during their term of fifty years. 'Hereby alſo the king ſells to the company the fifty millions of India 'ſtock, belonging to him, for nine hundred millions:' (i. e. 1800 per cent.) 'The king alſo hereby declares,' (though it was ſoon after ſeen how far ſuch declarations were to be relied on,) 'that he will ne-'ver draw on the bank till they have the value firſt brought in to them 'by his receivers-general, &c. Nor ſhall the company be obliged 'to advance any money hereafter for his ſervice on any pretence what-'ever, farther than what their caſhier ſhall previouſly have of his ma-'jeſty's in his cuſtody.'

This junction of the bank to the India company haſtened the downfal of both. It was ſaid, that this bank had already iſſued notes to the amount of one thouſand millions *, which was more paper than all the banks in Europe are able to circulate: for that of Amſterdam is rather a depoſit of credit than a proper circulating bank. And, to make this bank the more reputable, the receivers of the king's revenue were directed to take bank-notes of their ſub-receivers: and it was farther ordered, that all payments of one hundred livres and upwards ſhould be made in bank-notes; ſo that, for a ſhort ſpace, they began to have great credit, whereby they fell into diſcounting merchants bills, and lending money on jewels, plate, &c. and alſo on mortgages. All theſe, however, proved too little, under ſo deſpotic a government. For, though by ſuch methods, and by altering the nominal value of the coin, &c. they thought to ſupport public credit, yet its bottom being rotten, thoſe compulſive means were highly improper for eſtabliſhing credit, which ever muſt be as free as common air, and plainly argued the want of ſolid ſecurity. For, as nothing but the inviolable ſecurity and freedom of property can ever create a confidence in people for eſtabliſhing a permanent paper credit; who could poſſibly, for any long ſpace, confide in a bank which had only the bare parole d'honeur of a monarch, who, at his pleaſure, can, and frequently does, alter the value of private property, and who may at once lay his iron hands on the whole caſh of the bank? Louis XIV had tried every means, but the only true one, which human art could deviſe for creating a real public

* About forty millions ſterling, as the exchange then was. *A.*

credit in France, from obſerving what immenſe advantage it had been of to England in the wars of King William and Queen Anne, whereby we were become the wonder and envy of the reſt of Europe, yet he could never effect it; becauſe, agreeable to his nature and to his arbitrary government, he falſified the moſt ſolemn of his own edicts whenever his neceſſities pinched him! By another edict of the ſame month, the king enjoins, that no perſon keep in his houſe or poſſeſſion above five hundred livres in current coin, under the penalty of ten thouſand livres. All which violent methods are declared in thoſe arrets or edicts, to be, 'for the good of his ſubjects, to make proviſions 'cheap, to ſupport public credit, to facilitate circulation, and to increaſe 'commerce and manufactures!'

In March came out a moſt extraordinary arret of the council of ſtate, for fixing the price of the actions (or ſhares) of the India company at 9000 livres each! many arrets in theſe times appeared for altering the nominal value of the gold and ſilver coins of France, ſometimes to an higher, and at other times to a lower value, which tended to no other end but getting rid of the public debts, and filling the king's coffers, without any regard to the immenſe loſſes which ſuch proceedings brought on his impoveriſhed ſubjects.

Yet the India (or Miſſiſippi) ſtock ſtill continued to advance in price by entire hundreds per cent, even in one day's time: and whilſt that ſtock continued riſing, great were the encomiums beſtowed on the duke-regent; and his tool, Mr. Law, was deemed an infallible oracle!—Whoſe ſcheme of ſatisfying the public creditors, by giving them the general farm of the revenues, was by his agents ſaid to reſemble the bank of St. George at Genoa; and, like it, would be the ſtaff and ſtay of the ſtate! When the ſaid India ſtock was got to the price of 2,050 per cent, it produced, for a few months, the following ſtrange paradoxical effects in France, viz.

The ſtate-bills, which before had been at 63 per cent diſcount, got up to 20 per cent above par.—The king got rid of 1,500 millions of public debts, in a few weeks, without paying any money!—And, by remitting certain burthenſome taxes on the people, the royal revenue had been increaſed ſome millions!

The king now abſolutely prohibited all the eccleſiaſtical communities and hoſpitals of France from putting out their money at intereſt anywhere but in India ſtock. Notwithſtanding all theſe, and many other extraordinary meaſures, the immenſeneſs of its capital at length could not fail to bring down its price: for the prevention whereof, ſundry means were tried, ſuch as giving the company the ſole property of the iſland named Belleiſle on the ſouth-weſt coaſt of Bretagne, and afterwards the trade to the iſle of Hiſpaniola, &c.

The ſtock of the India company ſtill fluctuating, Mr. Law cauſed ſundry pamphlets to be publiſhed, for illuſtrating its vaſt benefits to the proprietors of it; and the impoſſibility of the king's ever doing it any prejudice. What followed ſo very ſoon after puts one in mind of Ben Jonſon's comedy of Bartholomew fair, where, for promoting the trade of cut-purſes, the chief of their gang gets on a ſtool, and ſings a ballad againſt cut-purſes.

For, on the 21ſt of May the king's fatal arret comes out, whereby, under pretence of his having reduced the value of his coin, it was declared neceſſary to reduce the nominal value of his bank-notes and the India ſtock, viz. the former to one half, and the later from 9,000 livres per action to 5,000 livres. It is eaſy to conceive the calamity, which this reduction produced throughout France! The bank-notes inſtantly loſt their currency. Mr. Hutcheſon, an author of credit, obſerves, that the French crown in bank-money, which, in September 1719, was worth 30*d* ſterling in exchange to London, was now worth about 3*d* payable in French bank-bills! To prevent tumults, the guards were placed everywhere. The parliament remonſtrated to the king the fatal conſequences thereof; which occaſioned the following arret, viz. 'the king 'being informed, that his reduction of bank-bills has had an effect 'quite contrary to his intentions, and has produced a general confu-'ſion in commerce: and being deſirous to favour the circulation of 'the ſaid bank-bills, for the conveniency of ſuch as give or take them 'in payment: and, having heard the report of the Sieur Law, he 'has ordained, that bank-bills be current on the ſame footing as be-'fore the above arret, which he hereby revokes.'

On the 29th of May, however, Mr. Law found it prudent to reſign his office of comptroller-general of the finances, by the interpoſition of the parliament of Paris with the duke of Orleans; whereupon it was thought needful to allow him two Switz officers as his guard; and commiſſaries were appointed to inſpect his accounts. Sundry other means were now uſed to keep up the tottering tumbling public credit. And, as many of the ſtate creditors had lately been paid off with bank-notes, which were now become troubleſome to circulate, by reaſon of their vaſt quantity, theſe were now taken in by a new ſubſcription of 1,000 millions on the town-houſe of Paris, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 25 millions of annuities.

And, for leſſening the number of actions in the India company, the king gave up 100 millions which belonged to him, and the company alſo ſunk 300 millions which they held in their corporate capacity. But, on the other hand, in order to make a dividend to the proprietors of 3 per cent on the nominal value of 12,000 livres per ſhare, they made a ſort of call of 3,000 livres per ſhare, payable in ſix months. Sundry other ſlight-of-hand tricks were now put in practice, to hoodwink the people, and, if poſſible, to retrieve their good opinion of India ſtock,

upon which a new company of inſurance was now ingrafted for that end: and every three or four days arrets came out, contradicting, repealing, or altering, the preceding ones; ſo that no fewer than ten ſuch came out during the month of June this year; the ſubſtance whereof, and of the proceedings of France for three years paſt, relating to their India or Miſſiſippi trade and company, and their royal-bank, we find principally in a large collection of arrets, memorials, &c. publiſhed at Paris, in 1720, by authority, in two quarto volumes, which we have abridged as much as poſſible; whereby a general knowlege may in part be gathered of that madneſs in France, which had in this year infected all the other monied countries of Europe!

The cruel reduction of the value of French bank-notes, the reductions of their India ſtock, and the conſequent general confuſion,—the numberleſs alterations, within the ſpace of a few months, in the nominal value of the coins of France: all theſe obliged wiſe and provident perſons to ſend their effects into other countries, leſt they ſhould be gradually reduced to nothing! For preventing thereof an ordinance came out on the 20th of June, whereby the king enjoined all his ſubjects to bring back their effects, upon pain of forfeiting double the value; and, on like forfeiture, ſtrictly enjoined them not to inveſt their money in the ſtocks of foreign companies! Than which ordinance nothing ſurely could more effectually alarm the people.

Merchants and others now refuſing to take their bank-notes in payment, an arret came out, prohibiting any perſon whatever from refuſing them, under forfeiture of double the value! Yet, on that ſame day, the run or demand on the bank was ſo great, that another ordinance of the king came out, importing, 'that he being informed of the tu-'mult at the bank upon account of paying their notes, he has thought 'fit to ſuſpend the payment of the ſaid notes till farther orders *: ſtrict-'ly forbidding all perſons whatever to meet or aſſemble together on 'any pretence whatever.' And guards were placed, on this lamentable occaſion, at ſundry public places in Paris, where merchants and others concerned in India ſtock, bank-notes, and bills of exchange, uſed to aſſemble in great numbers, whereby they were diſperſed.

In July many arrets came abroad, for raiſing the fallen credit of India ſtock, though to no purpoſe. And, on the 30th, an arret appears for again raiſing the nominal value of the French coins, and, for leſſening the number of bank-notes, 600 millions thereof were now turned into India ſtock, at 9,000 livres per ſhare. And although this was but an airy manner of payment, it was however eſteemed better than bank-notes, which had no currency at all. Other great ſums in bank-notes were erected into annuities at 2 per cent per annum, and into life-annuities at 5 per cent.

* There was not caſh in the bank to pay the fiftieth part of them. *A.*

On the 1ſt of September the duke-regent of France publiſhed a general ſtate of the public debts of France at the death of King Louis XIV, amounting to upwards of 1,977 millions of livres, and their intereſt to very near 90 millions per annum: inſtead of which great ſum (near 100 millions ſterling), the king (ſays this ſtatement) now owes ſcarcely 340 millions.

N. B. Of the firſt vaſt debt the India company had paid off 600 millions by diſcharging ſo many bank-notes, which the king muſt have otherwiſe paid, or ſunk: and that bank was thereby entirely at an end and ſhut up. The reſt, by different chicaneries between the regent and Law, were wiped off.

That general ſtate farther acquaints the public, 'that ſince the duke 'of Orleans's acceſſion to the regency, the royal finances have been 'augmented above 83 millions of livres per annum. And yet,' (believe it who can), 'the people have within that time been eaſed of 'taxes or impoſts to the amount of upwards of 52 millions per annum!' Be this as it may, he certainly got rid of ſo much national debt, to the ruin of thouſands of families, by the ways before mentioned. We ſhall only add, concerning the vaſt French India capital ſtock, that it gradually dwindled in value till it ſettled in their preſent Eaſt-India company; which, by dint of application, &c. has ſince made ſo great a figure, as well in India as in Europe, ſo as greatly to interfere with the intereſts of the other European nations trading to the Eaſt-Indies! And that the regent's chief inſtrument, Law, being now obliged to leave France, died in obſcurity, without having acquired any thing very conſiderable for himſelf; though he had it once in his power to have been the richeſt ſubject in Chriſtendom!

We return now farther to conſider the unfortunate ſituation of the proprietors of the Britiſh national debt, ſubſcribed into the South-ſea company in the year 1720, and of the purchaſers of South-ſea ſtock by money-ſubſcriptions at high prices. Toward the cloſe of that year, theſe began clearly to perceive the ſad ſtate they were reduced to by their own credulity, as well as by other cauſes already noted; and that all the ſchemes propoſed for raiſing the ſtock to its former high price were perfectly viſionary. Their main reſource now was, by the aſſiſtance of the legiſlature, to obtain an equal or fair diſtribution among them, of the undivided South-ſea ſtock, as far as that would go: yet even that was attended with ſundry difficulties, needleſs to be enlarged on at this diſtance of time. The redeemable creditors who had ſubſcribed, and alſo the money ſubſcribers, were indeed in a ſad way. Nevertheleſs, to enlarge on all the reaſonings of thoſe, as alſo on thoſe of the long-annuity proprietors, would require more room than is conſiſtent with our general ſcope; as the pieces publiſhed on that occaſion, which we have bound up, conſiſt of ſundry conſiderable volumes of ſeveral ſizes. We

ſhall therefor content ourſelves with firſt exhibiting a brief ſtate of the whole South-ſea capital ſtock, as it ſtood at Chriſtmas 1720, viz.

The old capital ſtock before midſummer 1720	L11,746,844	8	10
The ſtock of the irredeemable debts ſubſcribed	12,069,349	2	6
The ſtock of the redeemable debts ſubſcribed -	13,986,690	2	8
Total South-ſea ſtock at chriſtmas 1720, (in which however a ſmall miſtake of L400 was afterward found, whereby its true amount was L37,802,483: 14) - -	L37,802,883	14	0

And next, we ſhall, as briefly as poſſible, ſet down the quantity of ſtock allowed at different times, to the ſeveral ſpecies of new proprietors of South-ſea ſtock, in conſequence of the very badly executed ſcheme we are now treating of, viz.

I) To the redeemable proprietors, ſtock was at firſt allowed at 800 per cent, but afterward reduced to 400: ſo that L100 redeemable debt had in South-ſea ſtock L25, to which add the midſummer 10 per cent, is - - - - - - - - - - L27 10 0

2. The firſt additional third, by act of parliament, 31ſt July 1721 - - - - - - - - 9 3 4

3. The ſecond additional third, by general court, September 1ſt, 1721 - - - - - - - - 12 4 5

L48 17 9

4. The addition of a ſixteenth part, by general court, 12th April, 1723 - - - - - 3 1 1

Total South-ſea ſtock allowed for L100 redeemables ſubſcribed - - - - - - - L51 18 10

II) The four money-ſubſcriptions, though at firſt at different prices, had at length ſtock allowed them at 400 per cent, and had afterwards the very ſame ſeveral additions as the redeemable debts; ſo that for every L100 they had paid down they were in all allowed L51 18 10

Whereby it will appear, that theſe two deſcriptions of proprietors had much harder terms than any of the others.

III) The irredeemable debts ſubſcribed were, in all, allowed viz.

Long annuities in the firſt ſubſcription had for every L100 per annum, L700 South-ſea ſtock, and with the 10 per cent dividend in ſtock for midſummer 1720, made L770; and with two of the three addi-

tions made to the redeemables, as before exhibited, viz. the ſecond additional one third, and the additional one ſixteenth, made their ſtock amount to - - - - - - - - - L1,090 16 8
And they had, at ſubſcribing, in bonds and money - 575 0 0

Total ſtock and money in the firſt ſubſcription L1,665 16 8

In the ſecond ſubſcription of thoſe ſame long annuities they were at firſt allowed ſtock at 800 per cent, which was afterward reduced to 400 per cent, and, with the midſummer 10 per cent, amounted to - - - - - - - - - - L880 0 0
And the legiſlature having directed this ſecond ſubſcription to be made equal to the firſt ſubſcription, valuing the ſtock at 150 per cent, that addition in ſtock amounted to - - - - - - - - - - 203 6 8

L1,083 6 8
And the two above additions, as made to the firſt ſubſcription, in ſtock, amounted to - - - - - 451 7 8

Total ſtock allowed for L100 per annum in the ſecond ſubſcription; but no bonds nor money were given on this ſecond ſubſcription - L1,543 14 4

The L98 per annum annuities, called fourteen per cents, had in the firſt ſubſcription L700 ſtock allowed them, which, with all the beforementioned additions, amounted to - - L1,090 16 8
And in bonds and money - - - - 511 0 0

Total ſtock and money for L98 per annum, firſt ſubſcription, - - - - - - L1,601 16 8

And their ſecond ſubſcription in ſtock, with the ſame additions, but no bonds nor money - - - - - L1,474 5 6

The firſt ſubſcription of the nine per cents had, in all, for every L90 per annum in ſtock - - - - - - L545 8 4
And in bonds and money - - - - 217 10 0

Total for L90 per annum, in the firſt ſubſcription L762 18 4

And their ſecond ſubſcription had L699 : 7 : 2 ſtock, and L2, called odd money, in money.

For the prize-tickets of lottery 1710, L100 per annum, firſt ſubſcription, had in all in South-ſea ſtock - -	L623	6	8
And in bonds and money - - - - -	200	0	0
Total in the firſt ſubſcription - - -	L823	6	8

And their ſecond ſubſcription had in all L755 : 11 ſtock only.

The blank tickets of lottery 1710 had for every L98 per annum - - - - - -	L545	8	4
And in bonds and money - - - - -	353	10	0
Total ſtock and money in the firſt ſubſcription -	L898	18	4

And their ſecond ſubſcription had	L827	16	0	in ſtock.
And in odd money - -	2	0	0	
Total ſecond ſubſcription -	L829	16	0	

Thus it plainly appeared, that all the irredeemable debts ſubſcribed were put upon a much better footing than the redeemable ones, and the money ſubſcribers, who certainly were very hardly uſed.

IV) The old capital ſtock before midſummer 1720 had, beyond all other ſpecies of proprietors, the very beſt terms granted to them, viz. the 10 per cent dividend for midſummer 1720: likewiſe the additional third, (or L33 : 6 : 8 per cent) to the ſtock, by the general court on 1ſt September 1721: alſo the additional one ſixteenth part, (or L6 : 5 per cent) on the 12th April 1723: whereby L100 of the old South-ſea proprietors ſtock was increaſed, at midſummer 1723, to L155 : 16 : 8.

And thus at length men were forced to ſit down (though not contented) with their reſpective loſſes; though a ſecret committee of the houſe of commons in the beginning of this year made ſeveral large reports againſt the conduct of the directors, and indirectly againſt others in very high ſtations, ſome of whom were expreſsly included in the laws made for mulcting thoſe directors, and for ſequeſtrating their eſtates, and thoſe of ſome of their principal ſervants; more eſpecially their treaſurer, in whoſe breaſt many important ſecrets were by the crowd ſuppoſed to be lodged, particularly againſt a noble lord then in power, who nevertheleſs was well known to be hitherto no way inclined to avarice. Men's loſſes indeed, and the writings of the party ſcribblers, occaſioned many people at that time to believe, that the ſcheme itſelf contained ſecrets of very great importance! Bribery, corruption, and robbing of the public, were faſhionable words at this time, and helped

to fill up pamphlets and newſpapers: and many of thoſe, who had very lately moſt obſequiouſly courted and ſhamefully flattered the unhappy directors, were now the loudeſt for the moſt ſevere puniſhments. It is however but too true, that the directors, or rather the junto of managers, for making their ſcheme go more eaſily down, made conſiderable largeſſes, at the company's coſt, to many perſons of influence; and that in the execution of their whole ſcheme they had much too great a latitude allowed them. That the fictitious ſale of ſtock, prior to paſſing the act of parliament; their lending out above eleven millions of the company's money on ſtock and ſubſcriptions, without an adequate ſecurity; their taking ſo enormous a leap as from 400 to 1,000 per cent in the price of their ſtock for the third and fourth money-ſubſcriptions; their making private additions to the money-ſubſcriptions, for the benefit of friends; and the ſuffering ſuch friends to withdraw thoſe ſubſcriptions on the fall of ſtock; their giving away large ſums of the company's money for the future refuſal of ſtock at high prices, in order to raiſe it to thoſe prices; their laying out great ſums of the company's money, for buying up ſtock for the ſame end; their making many alterations, additions, and eraſements, in ſums and names on the ſaid loans, &c. were all utterly unjuſtifiable! Yet, with reſpect to the bulk of the miniſtry and parliament, there is ſome reaſon to think, that their liſtening to the propoſals of the South-ſea directors proceeded purely from a deſire of acquiring reputation by getting rid of part of our national burdens; though (as already obſerved) neither that nor any other ſcheme, inconſiſtent with the ſtricteſt national faith, ought to be countenanced. This was, we apprehend, the real ſtate of that whole affair, notwithſtanding the idle clamours of many who pretended to find out miraculouſly occult myſteries therein. Avarice had at that time deeply infected perſons of all ranks, whereby they contributed not a little to favour the South-ſea managers, and to forward their own ſubſequent loſſes. Several of the directors themſelves were ſo far innocent as to be found poorer at the breaking up of the ſcheme than when it began; and many of them had the beſt of characters till that infatuation: and the inventory of all their eſtates (excluſive of antecedent ſettlements) did not much exceed a million of money; which among ſo many perſons was little more than L30,000 each, on an average.

Many foreigners, then in our funds, were conſiderable loſers by the South-ſea ſcheme, whereby a balance (though not a very reputable one) was ſaid to be in our favour, nationally ſpeaking. The laudable canton of Berne is however ſaid to have been a very conſiderable gainer, in their public capacity, by this ſcheme. The amount of all the value of the contracts regiſtered at the South-ſea houſe, purſuant to act of parliament, was L9,917,862. On which there was L2,000,000 and upwards

paid down, and the balance remaining due thereon was L7,884,137, beſides the many contracts never regiſtered; and the many others made on account of the leſſer ſtocks and bubbles, whoſe nominal amount was then gueſſed by obſerving people, when at their higheſt prices, to exceed 300 millions. And ſuppoſing all the increaſed South-ſea capital of L37,802,883: 14 to have been negotiated at 1,000 per cent, the amount would have been 380 millions more. If, moreover, all the entire bank and Eaſt-India capitals had been negotiated at their then advanced prices, that would have amounted to 28½ millions more. The whole amounts to above 700 millions. Yet, as this laſt ſuppoſition is ſcarcely to be admitted, we ſhall rather ſtick to our former ſuppoſition of 500 millions being nearer to the nominal value of them all.

The unaccountable frenzy in ſtocks and projects of the year may by ſome be thought to have taken up too much room in this work: but we are perſuaded that others will approve of perpetuating, in ſuch a work, the remembrance of them, as a warning to after-ages!

We ſhall ſum up all relating to the deceitful arts of raiſing South-ſea ſtock by new and extravagant high ſubſcriptions, by a ſenſible, familiar, and moſt plain, ſimile, written at this time by that ingenious gentleman, Archibald Hutcheſon, eſquire, (long ſince dead) whoſe fair and candid calculations on this ſubject, and on our general national debts, make up a moderate folio volume, viz.

'A having a L100 ſtock in trade, though pretty much in debt, gives 'it out to be worth L300, on account of many privileges and advan-'tages to which he is intitled. B, relying on A's great wiſdom and in-'tegrity, ſues to be admitted partner on thoſe terms, and accordingly 'brings L300 into the partnerſhip. The trade being afterwards given 'out or diſcovered to be very improving, C comes in at L500; and af-'terward D, at L1100. And the capital is then completed to L2000. 'If the partnerſhip had gone no farther than A and B, then A had got, 'and B had loſt, L100. If it had ſtopped at C, then A had got, and C 'had loſt, L200; and B had been as he was before: but D alſo coming 'in, A gains L400 and B L200; and C neither gains nor loſes: but D 'loſes L600. Indeed, if A could ſhew that the ſaid capital was intrin-'ſically worth L4400, there would be no harm done to D; and B and 'C would have been obliged to him. But if the capital at firſt was 'worth but L100, and increaſed only by the ſubſequent partnerſhips, 'it muſt then be acknowleged, that B and C have been impoſed on in 'their turns, and that unfortunate thoughtleſs D paid the piper.'

This ſimile is too obvious to need explanation: A plainly repreſenting the original South-ſea capital, as B and C do the firſt and ſecond ſubſcriptions for ſtock, and D the third and fourth ſubſcriptions. This

came not out till the close of the year 1720, when every one too late saw the general deception: but we remember many who were then of opinion, that, had it been published before the two shameful subscriptions at each L1000 per cent had been resolved on, it might have prevented so wild a measure.

The infection of new projects communicated itself in that same year of wonders into the cool and phlegmatic country of Holland, where sundry new subscriptions for insurances of ships, merchandize, &c. were set on foot, not only in their greater cities, but even in some inconsiderable ones. Those idle subscriptions, however, were not carried to any great and prejudicial height amongst so wary a people, who soon returned to their proper vocations.

We had in that same year a seemingly-judicious view of the iron manufacture of England, from a state of it published by Mr. William Wood *, who was then a great iron-proprietor. He observes very justly, 'that the iron manufacture is, next to the woollen manufacture, the 'most considerable of all others in this nation. That we then used 'about 30,000 tons of iron per annum: of which (for want of a sufficient supply of cord-wood) we are forced to buy of our neighbours 'about 20,000 tons, with ready money; which, at L10 per ton, is 'L200,000 per annum. That we have iron-stone enough, and may be 'able to supply ourselves with cord-wood to make the greatest part of, 'if not all, the iron we want, by planting and raising copices on 'waste and other lands of small value, and reserving a certain quantity 'of acres to grow for timber-trees.' Yet, as all this was said with a view to introduce the account of his iron-partnership, amongst the projects or bubbles of that year, it must be read with caution. Mr. Wood had then a lease of all the mines on the crown-lands of thirty-nine counties, whose furnaces were well supplied with pit-coal; some of the best iron-works in the kingdom; several forges for refining and drawing iron out into bars; also a slitting-mill for rolling, slitting, and preparing, the iron for its several uses in manufacture; furnaces for making pig-iron, pots, rails, and banisters, backs and hearths for chimnies, and all other sorts of cast-iron, both with charcoal and pit-coal.

It being found by experience, that silver plate, made according to the old standard of eleven ounces and two penny-weight of fine silver, (which was altered to eleven ounces ten penny-weight, by the act 8 *Gul.* III. *c.* 7) is more serviceable and durable than that made by the later standard, the old sterling standard of eleven ounces two penny-weight of fine silver in a pound weight (troy) was restored by act of parliament.

* This is the same Wood, who afterwards undertook the coinage of copper halfpence for Ireland. *A.*

Hereby alſo it was made felony to counterfeit the receipts for ſubſcriptions, and alſo of the dividend warrants of the South-ſea company, or any endorſements thereon.

In the ſame famous year 1720, the Turkey company made a moſt reaſonable complaint to parliament, againſt ſome part of the Engliſh trade to Italy, as then managed by our Italian merchants: an act was therefor paſſed for prohibiting the importation of raw-ſilk and mohair yarn of the product or manufacture of Aſia from any ports or places in the Straits or Levant ſeas, except from ſuch ports or places as are within the dominions of the grand ſignior. [*6 Geo. I. c.* 14.] It ſeems our Italian merchants at Leghorn frequently purchaſed of the French thoſe goods, which they had brought from Turkey, in return for French woollen goods ſent to Turkey; thereby encouraging the French woollen manufacture, and diſcouraging our own. In this application the Turkey company declared, that they then conſiſted of 200 members, all of whom traded ſeparately for themſelves, and bought and ſold without limitation.

We have an authentic view of the ſtrength of the royal navy of Great Britain at this time, 1720, in Secretary Burchet's Naval hiſtory, publiſhed this year, viz.

7	ſhips of	-	100 guns,
13	-	-	90
16	-	-	80
23	-	-	70
19	-	-	60
47	-	-	50
125	of the line of battle.		
23	-	-	40
9	-	-	30
25	-	-	20

182 ſhips, carrying 9,940 guns;

excluſive of thoſe neceſſary for others of leſſer dimenſions; as fire-ſhips, bomb-veſſels, ſtore-ſhips, ſloops, yachts, hoys, &c. which, he ſays, amounted to 50 more. We may ſafely ſubjoin, that ſince then our royal navy is greatly increaſed, as well in the bulk and conſtruction, as in their number and ſtrength.

The favourite project of France, in reſpect to North-America, being to join their colony of Canada to that of Louiſiana, and alſo to obtain a port in the Ocean; they, for thoſe ends, began very early after the treaty of Utrecht to extend their limits on that continent; and though the 15th article of that peace had abſolutely excluded them from moleſting, or encroaching on, the five Indian nations of the Iroquois, as being

peculiarly ſubject to the Britiſh crown; yet they this year ſeized on the moſt important paſs of Niagara, and fortified the ſame, whereby they were able to command the lakes, and to form a plan for extending their power to the Ohio river, and to carry their chain of forts and ſettlements thence down to the Miſſiſippi river; and this fort they held till the year 1759. In the meantime, they had by many arts debauched thoſe five Indian nations ſo far, that they were brought to murder our people ſettled among them in great numbers.

In a treaty of peace, concluded this year between Denmark and Sweden at Frederickſtadt under the mediation of George I king of Great Britain, it was ſtipulated, that, upon the crown of Denmark relinquiſhing all former pretenſions on the crown of Sweden, the ſhips of Sweden, in paſſing the Sound, or either of the two Belts, ſhould thenceforth pay to Denmark the ſame toll as is paid by Great Britain and the United Netherlands; Sweden thereby renouncing all exemption from the ſaid toll. So that by this treaty, there was thenceforth to be no longer any difference of nations in paſſing into or returning from the Baltic; all paying a like toll for ſhips and cargoes *.

1721.—While Archangel was the only ſtaple port for the Ruſſian naval commerce, the foreign merchants uſually reſided at Moſcow, and only travelled thence in the ſummer ſeaſon to Archangel, where they had their warehouſes and factors: this method continued till the year 1721, when by order of the czar Peter the Great, the ſeat of commerce was tranſferred from Archangel to his new emporium of Peterſburgh, (now grown a very conſiderable city) which obliged the foreign traders to remove their factories to it.

According to a quarto pamphlet, (publiſhed by the noted William Wood 1721) entitled, the State of the copper and braſs manufactures in Great Britain, about 30,000 pepole were then ſuppoſed to ſubſiſt by thoſe manufactures. He alſo remarks, that thoſe metals were refined by pit-coal alone. 'We have' (ſays he) 'plenty of lapis calaminaris for 'making braſs. Copper ore is found in many counties of England, 'Wales, and Scotland: and this nation could ſupply itſelf with copper 'and braſs, of its own produce, ſufficient for all occaſions, if ſuch du-'ties were laid on foreign copper and braſs as would diſcourage their 'importation, and at the ſame time encourage the ſale of our own 'metal.'

After all the ſtir, without doors by pamphlets and newſpapers, and within doors by a ſecret committee of parliament, all that could be done for the South-ſea company, was 1ſt, By an act of parliament of

* The amount of goods imported into England in the year 1720 was L6,090,083; and the total of the exports, not including coin and bullion, was L6,910,899; as they are ſtated by Sir Charles Whitworth in his *State of the trade of Great Britain*, from which I propoſe to extract the totals of every tenth year to the concluſion of the reign of George II. *M.*

the 7th of King George, to reſtrain their ſub-governor, deputy-governor, directors, treaſurers, and accountant *, from going out of the kingdom, and for diſcovering their eſtates. 2dly, By another act of the ſame year, they were diſabled from ever after enjoying the ſaid offices, &c. 3dly, Another of the ſame year was for raiſing money on their eſtates, and on thoſe of Mr. Aiſlabie and Mr. Craggs ſenior, towards making good the loſſes ſuſtained by their miſmanagement in the year 1720; out of which they were however allowed certain ſums for their maintenance. 4thly, By another act of the ſame year, for making ſeveral proviſions to reſtore the public credit, which ſuffers by the frauds and miſmanagements of the late directors of the South-ſea company and others; beſides what we have already noted, of remitting to that company all the benefit the public was to have reaped by the company's privilege of taking in the public debts, and the putting the redeemables and the four money ſubſcriptions on an equal footing, the borrowers on ſtock and ſubſcriptions in that year were hereby to be releaſed, on paying 10 per cent to the company; from which 10 per cent they were afterward alſo releaſed. Hereby alſo all unperformed contracts for any kind of ſtocks and ſubſcriptions, made during the year 1720, were directed to be regiſtered by a fixed time, and in the meantime all law ſuits thereon were to remain ſuſpended; which gave immediate eaſe to very many perſons concerned therein. By this act likewiſe, two millions of the company's capital was to be ſunk from midſummer 1722, for the benefit of the public. And the ſecret committee, after a farther report, (of very little uſe or conſequence) broke off all farther inquiries.

On the 1ſt of September, in this ſame year, the additional L33 : 6 : 8 per cent in ſtock was made to the ſeveral proprietors already mentioned.

Peace was concluded at Madrid on the 13th of June 1721, between Great Britain and Spain, whereby the peace of Utrecht was in general confirmed, and the South-ſea company were reſtored to the exerciſe of the aſſiento contract for negroes, &c. and the full value of all that had been ſeized was ſtipulated to be refunded to them. The antient limits of both nations in America were confirmed, and the freedom of the cod fiſhery at Newfoundland.

In conſequence of the peace, the South-ſea company in the ſame year ſent out their great and rich annual ſhip to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, i. e. to Porto Bello and Carthagena; which, however, from various cauſes, did not anſwer the great hopes at firſt conceived of that voyage. The difficulties perpetually ſtarted by the court of Madrid, the avarice of the company's own ſervants, and of the Spaniſh officers in America, were much more the occaſion of this voyage not proving advantageous, than any want of prudent concert in planning or deſigning it.

* This laſt was afterwards left out of the bill. *A.*

A definitive treaty of peace was alſo concluded this year between Sweden and Ruſſia: whereby the former was obliged to confirm or yield to Ruſſia (what had been before conquered) the very beſt jewel of the Swediſh crown, viz. Livonia, together with Eſthonia, Ingria, Carelia, and the town of Wyburg, with the iſles of Oeſel, Dragoe, and Moen. The czar, on the other ſide, reſtored a part of Finland to the king of Sweden, and alſo agreed to pay him two millions of rix-dollars, and that the Swedes ſhould be permitted annually to buy corn to the amount of 50,000 rubles, at Riga, Revel, and Wyburg, free of cuſtoms. In point of commerce, alſo, the Swedes were to be treated as the moſt favoured nation.

This treaty was a ſevere check to the commerce, and a very conſiderable diminution of the territory and power, of Sweden, which ſhe has never ſince been able to regain.

This year an attempt was made in the parliament of Ireland to erect a public bank in that kingdom: but it was rejected (it was ſaid) purely for want of a ſufficient currency of caſh for circulating bank-notes there; and perhaps for ſome other more ſecret reaſons.

The uſe of printed Indian calicoes in Britain, both in apparel and houſehold furniture, was at this time become ſo univerſal, as to be a great detriment and obſtruction to the woollen and ſilk manufactures of the kingdom. This had occaſioned ſundry riots and tumults of the weavers in London, &c. It was therefor found neceſſary to redreſs a grievance, wherein ſo many thouſand families were deeply intereſted. An act of parliament was therefor paſſed, to preſerve and encourage the woollen and ſilk manufactures, &c. which abſolutely prohibited the wear thereof, under the penalty of L5 for each offence on the wearer, and of L20 on the ſeller. [7 *Geo. I, c.* 7].

And by an act for employing the manufacturers, and encouraging the conſumption, of raw ſilk, and mohair yarn, buttons or button-holes made of cloth or other ſtuff, were abſolutely prohibited. [7 *Geo. I, c.* 12.]

The Oſtenders ſtill perſiſting to trade to the Eaſt-Indies, the Britiſh parliament paſſed an act for further preventing his majeſty's ſubjects from trading to the Eaſt-Indies under foreign commiſſions, &c. prohibiting the importation of tea from any part of Europe, over and above all former reſtraints laid on Britiſh ſubjects from reſorting or trading to the Eaſt-Indies under foreign commiſſions, with ſundry other new additional reſtraints and penalties. [7 *Geo. I, c.* 20.] And by the Dutch placarts, it was made death for any of their ſubjects to be concerned therein.

In an act for raiſing a ſum not exceeding L500,000, (charged on the civil liſt revenue) &c. there is a clauſe for diſcharging the two aſſurance companies, eſtabliſhed by charters in the year 1720, (viz. the Royal-exchange and the London aſſurance companies) from ſo much of the

ſum of L300,000, which each of them was obliged to pay to the king's uſe, as now remained unpaid; in conſideration of the difficulties which thoſe two corporations laboured under.

According to the *Britiſh Merchant* [*V.* ii. *p.* 220, ed. 1721] the Britiſh ſilk manufacture amounted to L700,000 per annum in value more than it was at the revolution; we importing, till that period, annually from France to the value of L.500,000 in wrought ſilks of all kinds.

He adds, what was alſo well known, that till then there was little elſe made in England but brown paper; whereas now there are two thirds of all the white paper we uſe made at home.

The increaſe of the French fiſhery on the banks of Newfoundland, and in the neighbouring parts, was ſo great about this time, that, as the ſame author [*V.* ii. *p.* 290] alleges, they employed yearly upwards of 400 ſail of ſhips therein, from St. Malo, Grandville, Rochelle, St. Martin's, Bayonne, St. Jean de Luz, Sibour, &c. whereby they not only now ſupplied themſelves entirely with fiſh, which they formerly had from England, but likewiſe rivalled us much in the fiſh trade to Spain and Italy.

According to Egede, a Daniſh author, and zealous miſſionary to Old Greenland, the Greenland company of Bergen in Norway now ſent out a colony to reſettle Old Greenland, after a large Norwegian colony had been deſtroyed, or otherwiſe loſt, in that country ſome hundreds of years before. Mr. Egede, who went with this new colony, relates, that they found there ſome marks of old habitations and of antient tillage. He thinks that the old Norwegian colony muſt have been deſtroyed by the ſavage natives, or by an unuſual peſtilence; and that the country was forgotten by the Danes and Norwegians till the year 1619, when ſome fruitleſs attempts were made from Copenhagen, to find out the country where that old colony had been ſettled.

After all, it is much to be doubted, whether there be commercial materials in that moſt cold and barren country, ſufficient to induce any European nation to be at much expenſe in planting there, peltry and fiſh oil being probably its only product, and the country being very thin of inhabitants, and thoſe too very miſerable ones. We accordingly hear nothing farther of the ſucceſs of that freſh attempt for colonizing in it till the year 1736.

There were employed this year in the whale fiſhery to Greenland and Davis's ſtraits,

From ſundry parts of Holland -	251	ſhips.
From Hamburgh - - -	55	
From Bremen - - - -	24	
From the ports in the Bay of Biſcay -	20	
From Bergen in Norway - -	5	
Total	355	ſhips.

This liſt, which was publiſhed at London at this time, probably, in part, encouraged the new South-ſea court of directors to propoſe a whale fiſhery to their general courts, which however they did not finally agree to till three years after.

The preamble of an act of parliament of the 8th year of King George I, for giving farther encouragement for the importation of naval ſtores, &c. declares,

That, in conſequence of former legal encouragements, it is found by experience, that great quantities of good and merchantable pitch and tar have been imported from the Britiſh plantations in America, which have been found uſeful for the ſervice of his majeſty's navy; and that it is neceſſary to give farther encouragement therein; ſo as the tar be clean and merchantable, as herein farther directed, for making cordage.

Moreover, it being probable, that the owners of large tracts of land in America and in Scotland, lying near the ſea or on navigable rivers, would be induced to ſow the ſame with hemp, if farther encouragement were given for that purpoſe: it was therefor enacted, that the premium of L6 per ton of hemp, ſo raiſed and imported, be farther continued for ſixteen years, and be free of all cuſtoms whatever.

And whereas great quantities of wood and timber, and of the goods commonly called lumber, (of many ſeveral ſorts of wood therein enumerated) have uſually been imported into this kingdom from foreign countries at exceſſive prices, whereby foreigners have found opportunities to export the coin of the kingdom: and it is well known, that the ſaid commodities, being of the growth and product of the Britiſh plantations in America, may be furniſhed from thence; for encouragement thereof it was enacted, that the ſaid timber goods be exported, duty-free, from the plantations, for 91 years to come: excepting maſts, yards, and bowſprits, touching which, duties and premiums are aſcertained by former acts in that behalf.

The commiſſioners of the navy muſt have the pre-emption or refuſal of the hemp, for 20 days after landing, for the uſe of the navy-royal.

The laws already made for the preſervation of white pine trees in his majeſty's colonies in America, for maſting the royal navy, being found inſufficient, it was now enacted, that no perſon ſhould preſume to cut, fell, or deſtroy, any white pine tree in the American provinces, named in former acts of parliament, (to which Nova-Scotia was now added), without the king's licence firſt obtained, under the ſeveral penalties for the various ſized trees herein ſpecified.

In this year (according to Keyſler's Travels) the famous fine porcelain of Saxony was brought to perfection, being the invention of one Botticher, a chymiſt, who died in the year 1719. But he carried it no farther than to the white ſort, the art of making brown and blue por-

celain not being found out till this year. This able author adds, that the invention of the Saxon porcelain was owing to alchymy.

In the ſame year Captain Scroggs, from Churchill-river fort in Hudſon's Bay, failed upon the diſcovery of a north-weſt paſſage from that bay to China, &c. as far as latitude 64° 56′, where, as he reported, the land fell off to the ſouthward of weſt: ſuch of his people, as went up to the top of a mountain, reported, that they ſaw nothing to obſtruct their going farther. This was a lame account, (ſays Mr Ellis's voyage, annis 1746—7) for why then did he not proceed *?

Copper ore having been lately found in the province of New-York; it was now, by an act [8 *Geo. I, c.* 18] to prevent the clandeſtine running of goods, &c. made an enumerated commodity; i. e. it was made liable to the like reſtraint of being firſt landed in ſome port of Great Britain, as ſugar, tobacco, &c. are, before being re-exported. The antient Peruvians had the uſe of copper tools, before they were conquered by the Spaniards; but this was the firſt diſcovery of copper in any of the Britiſh colonies of America.

The vaſt increaſe of buildings in the great weſtern ſuburbs of London requiring a greater ſupply of freſh water than the preſent works could furniſh, an act of parliament, of the 8th year of King George I, for better ſupplying the city and liberties of Weſtminſter and parts adjacent with water, authorized the Chelſea water company, newly erected, to dig baſons, reſervoirs, &c. for bringing water from the river Thames to a place near Chelſea, and to convey the ſame (by an ingenious engine) to another reſervoir in Hyde-park, whence it is conveyed in pipes to ſeveral ſtreets and houſes: and the crown was empowered to incorporate the undertakers, as was accordingly done in this ſame year.

The ſilk manufacture of England being brought to great perfection in all its branches, ſo as to equal the fineſt fabrications of any foreign nation, the Britiſh legiſlature now judged it proper to enact new encouragements to ſo noble a manufacture, by an act [3 *Geo. I, c.* 15] for encouraging the ſilk manufactures of this kingdom, and for promoting its exportation to foreign parts, by granting the following bounties thereon for three years to come, viz.

For ribands and ſtuffs of ſilk only, for each pound avoirdupois	Lo	3	o
Silks and ribands of ſilk mixed with gold or ſilver -	o	4	o
Silk ſtockings, gloves, fringes, laces, ſtitching or ſewing ſilk	o	1	o
Stuffs of ſilk and grogram-yarn - - - -	o	o	8
Silk ſtuffs mixed with incle or cotton - - -	o	1	o
Stuffs of ſilk and worſted - - - - -	o	o	6

* Scroggs was not very anxious for diſcovering a paſſage. See *Forſter's Voyages in the North, p.* 387 *of Engliſh tranſlation. M.*

This encouragement was founded on the conſideration of raw and thrown ſilk paying a conſiderable duty on importation. And by a ſubſequent ſtatute [9 *Geo. I, c.* 8] the mixed manufactures were not to be intitled to the bounties, unleſs at leaſt two third parts of the ends or threads of the warp be either all ſilk, or mixed and twiſted with ſilk. Both theſe ſtatutes have ſince been farther prolonged.

By this well-judged ſtatute for the encouragement of the Britiſh manufactures in general, the ſeveral duties whatſoever, payable thereon at exportation, were to ceaſe and determine, (though they were ſtill regularly to be entered at every cuſtomhouſe), excepting ſuch for which a ſpecial proviſion is therein after made, viz. alum, lead, tin, tanned leather, copperas, coals, wool-cards, white woollen cloths, lapis calaminaris, ſkins of all ſorts, glue, coney-wool, hare's wool, hair of all ſorts, horſes, and litharge of lead.

Moreover, for the further encouragement of Britiſh manufactures, by promoting the importation of drugs, &c. uſed in dying; all ſuch were (upon being duely entered) to be duty-free (ſaltpetre always excepted); but on re-exportation of thoſe foreign dying ſtuffs, they were to pay the ſeveral duties therein ſpecified; leſt their being ſuffered to be exported duty-free ſhould prove a benefit to the manufactures of foreign nations. Hereby alſo half the duty on beaver ſkins (now with other furs made an enumerated commodity) was to be drawn back on re-exportation: And the duty on the pepper of our own Eaſt-India company, for home conſumption, which was before in all 2*ſ* per pound weight, was now reduced to 4*d* per pound weight.

By an act of parliament of this year, for paying off and cancelling one million of exchequer bills, and giving eaſe to the South-ſea company, in reſpect to their obligation to circulate exchequer-bills, &c. and for relief of the ſufferers at Nevis and St. Chriſtophers, &c. farther time was allowed to the South-ſea company for repaying to the public the million of exchequer-bills formerly lent to them (and which was accordingly repaid the year following), and alſo ſundry other regulations were made concerning exchequer bills, not material to our ſubject. Therein alſo there was an intereſt fixed, at the rate of 3 per cent yearly, on the united principal and large arrear of intereſt due to the ſufferers of Nevis and St Chriſtophers by the French in Queen Anne's war.

By the authority of another act of this year, to enable the South-ſea company to diſpoſe of the effects in their hands, &c. they ſold to the bank of England four millions of their capital ſtock, attended with 5 per cent intereſt, or a yearly intereſt of L200,000; whereby the whole South-ſea capital ſtock was reduced to L33,802,483: 14 *. Hereupon the bank took in a ſubſcription for ſale of this new ingrafted ſtock at 118 per cent, whereby, in their corporate capacity, they gained

* An error of L420, as already noted, was diſcovered in the ſubſcriptions. *A.*

L.610,169 : 10 bank ſtock : and the ſtock, thus ſold at 18 per cent advance, amounting to L3,389,830 : 10, produced in money the exact ſum due to the South-ſea company, being L4,000,000. The whole bank capital due from the public hereby amounted to L9,375,027 : 17 : 10½, of which capital the ſum of L1,600,000 was intitled to 6 per cent intereſt till the year 1742 ; the reſt, with all the remaining South-ſea capital, was to be reduced to 4 per cent after midſummer 1727.

By an abſtract of the public debts, by Archibald Hutcheſon Eſq. for the year 1722 (publiſhed in 1723) it appears,

That the groſs amount of the poſt-office annual revenue was - - - - - - -				L201,804	1 8
There was to be deducted for frank covers to letters - - - - -	L33,397	12	3	103,793	13 8
For the expenſe of management	70,396	1	5		
The poſt-office's net produce at michaelmas 1722				L98,010	8 0

By an act of parliament of this year, to prevent the miſchiefs by forging powers to transfer any ſtocks, &c. it was made felony to forge, or procure to be forged, any letter of attorney for transferring any ſtocks or ſhares of corporations eſtabliſhed by act of parliament, or to receive any dividend thereon, or to perſonate any real proprietor. This law was occaſioned by a fraudulent letter of attorney for transferring ſome South-ſea ſtock in the year 1720, though not diſcovered till fourteen months after. Whereupon the South-ſea general court, after much debate, reſolved (upon a ballot of 1,457 votes againſt 160) 'that every 'proprietor who has had, or ſhall have, ſtock transferred to him in the 'company's transfer-books, be intitled to the ſum ſo transferred, upon 'his producing a receipt for the ſame, witneſſed by the clerk attending 'the transfer-books, provided there appears no fraud on the part of the 'purchaſer.'

In December 1722 the German emperor, Charles VI, firſt granted his charter for an Eaſt-India company at Oſtend, before only connived at by him : whereupon a capital of ſix millions of florins was ſubſcribed, and ſhips were now more openly ſent out, which returned with cargoes of Eaſt-India merchandize, to the great loſs of the Engliſh and Dutch Eaſt-India companies in the ſales of their goods ; both which nations now therefor loudly complained thereof. The Dutch more eſpecially and moſt vehemently inſiſted, and plainly made it appear, that the grant was directly repugnant to the treaty of Munſter, whereby the king of Spain, then ſovereign of the Netherlands, obliged himſelf and his ſucceſſors, as ſuch, never to extend their navigation or commerce in India beyond the limits then agreed upon, viz. the Spaniards not to ſail to India from Europe, and the Dutch only thither by

the Cape of Good Hope; that therefor the Auſtrian Netherlands, as well as Arragon, Naples, Sicily, and other ſubjects of the Spaniſh crown, were thereby barred from trading to India; and that the emperor, as ſovereign of the ten Netherland provinces, is likewiſe bound hereby; ſince the maritime powers conquered thoſe provinces for him, merely on the footing of his right to the Spaniſh monarchy, and he could hold thoſe provinces no otherwiſe than the kings of Spain held them. By the 26th article alſo of the barrier treaty, this ſame emperor ſtipulated, that every thing relating to commerce ſhould remain as ſtipulated by the treaty of Munſter. That, on the part of England, it was clear, that by the 8th article of the treaty of Madrid, between England and Spain in 1670, Spain ſtipulated, that the king of Great Britain and his ſubjects ſhould enjoy every benefit granted to the Dutch by the Munſter treaty; and conſequently hereby, as well as by the barrier treaty, the Engliſh company, as well as their ſovereign, have an undoubted right to oppoſe this Oſtend trade to India.

And the Britiſh legiſlature, in order to prevent his majeſty's ſubjects from ſubſcribing, or being concerned in encouraging or promoting any ſubſcription, for an Eaſt-India company in the Auſtrian Netherlands, and for better ſecuring the lawful trade of his majeſty's ſubjects to and from the Eaſt-Indies, enacted, that every Britiſh ſubject who ſhould ſubſcribe to the ſtock of the Oſtend company, ſhould forfeit the ſame, and triple the value thereof; one third to the crown, and two thirds to the Engliſh Eaſt-India company. Britiſh ſubjects found in India, unleſs lawfully authorized, or within our Eaſt-India company's limits, are hereby declared guilty of an high crime and miſdemeanor, and liable to ſuch corporal puniſhment or impriſonment, and for ſuch time, as the court where they ſhall be tried ſhall think fit, &c. [9 *Geo. I, c.* 26.] Yet theſe warm arguments did not as yet effectually prevail.

This year the king of Great Britain made a grant of the iſlands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, in the Weſt-Indies, to John duke of Montague; whereupon that public-ſpirited nobleman ſent over two governors for thoſe iſlands, with fifty-one other officers, and 425 ſervants, with all kinds of ſtores, proviſions, artillery, &c. in ſix ſhips, under convoy of a king's ſhip, very completely fitted and provided for ſuch a new colony. But they had no ſooner begun to clear the ground for a fort in St. Lucia, in December 1722, than they had notice from the governor of Martinico, that his expreſs orders from his maſter, the French king, were to diſlodge them by force, unleſs they withdrew from the iſland in fifteen days time; for which purpoſe 2000 men were landed from Martinico, and 500 from Guadaloupe. And as the Engliſh were by ſickneſs and deſertion reduced to 70 men fit to bear arms, Governor Uring judged it prudent, on due conſultation, to abandon the iſlands on the 14th of January following; it being alſo now ſtipulated with the French com-

mander, that the French forces ſhould, in like manner, leave St. Lucia in its former neutral ſtate, till there ſhould be a final deciſion made between the two crowns. Upon which one obvious remark is ſufficient, viz. that either certain previous ſtipulations ſhould have been made between the two crowns for the duke's people to be permitted to ſettle on thoſe iſles, or elſe a much greater force ſhould have been ſent to protect them. St. Lucia being ſo near to Martinico, the French would probably hazard even a war with Britain, rather than let us poſſeſs and improve it, ſince thereby we ſhould have been enabled farther to ſecure our Leeward iſlands; ſeeing no conſiderable armament could be made at Martinico but what would be preſently known at St. Lucia.

This unfortunate expedition is ſaid to have coſt the duke no leſs a ſum than L40,000, the greateſt and moſt expenſive undertaking attempted by any one ſubject in Chriſtendom, on his own ſingle bottom; the tradeſmen being allowed from L25 to L30, and the officers from L50 to L400 per annum, for a year and a half, beſides the ſhipping, proviſions, ammunition, artillery, military and naval ſtores, &c. all at the duke's expenſe. It is certain that the iſlands of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Dominica, are, and always have been, included in the governor of Barbados's commiſſion; the title whereof runs thus, viz. 'Captain-general and governor of Barbados, and the reſt of the Caribbee iſles to the windward of Guadaloupe.'

In November 1730, according to a work intitled, the Britiſh empire in America, we find the following inſtructions from King George II to Mr. Worſley, governor of Barbados, relating to St. Lucia, viz.

'Whereas the French for ſome years have claimed a right to the iſland of St. Lucia, and do inſiſt that the right to the iſlands of St. Vincent and Dominica, under your government, is in the Carribbeans now inhabiting the ſame, although we have an undoubted right to all the ſaid iſlands, yet we have thought fit to agree with the French court, that, until our right ſhall be determined, the ſaid iſlands ſhall be entirely evacuated by both nations. You are accordingly to ſignify the ſame to ſuch of our ſubjects as ſhall be found inhabiting any of our ſaid iſlands, that they do forthwith quit the ſame, until the right ſhall be determined as aforeſaid. And you are to uſe your beſt endeavour, that no ſhips of our ſubjects, nor of any other nation, do frequent the ſaid iſlands during the time aforeſaid, excepting only for wood and water.'

In the very next month, viz. in December the ſame year, 1730, (that we may take in all at once what relates to this ſubject) the French king's inſtructions to Mr. de Champigny, his governor of Martinico, are in ſubſtance, 'that the Engliſh have for ſome years paſt made pretenſions to the iſland of St. Lucia, which belongs to me, and to which I have an inconteſtable right: the ſame pretenſions they have laid to the

'islands of St. Vincent and Dominica, which belong to the Caribbeans, natives of the country, according to the treaty of the 31st of March 1660; and in the possession whereof it is my intention to support them: I have nevertheless agreed with the court of England, that, until those pretensions shall be determined, the said islands shall be evacuated by both nations. And it is my pleasure that you make this known, &c.'

We have already given, at sundry times, somewhat of the history of the island of St. Lucia, and some account also of Dominica. That of St. Vincent is something more obscure. It lies to the southward of St. Lucia. When Governor Uring sent his counsellor, Mr. Egerton, thither, to prepare its inhabitants for submission to the British crown, he found two sorts of people there in great numbers, viz. the native Caribs, who were the aborigines or primitive possessors thereof; and the negroes, the descendants of a cargo of slaves from Africa, who had been shipwrecked there about 70 years before; and who, by the accession of other negroes, fugitives from the neighbouring European settlements, were increased to about 6000 men, women, and children. Their government was republican, viz. by chiefs or leaders by election. The Indians, or native Caribs, he found to consist of about 8000 persons, who inhabited sundry pretty villages, and seemed to live in plenty. They seemed also to be a determined people for liberty and independence, any farther than acknowleging the protection of the French at Martinico, which the later gladly afforded them, to prevent their putting themselves under the protection of any other European nation.

This year the general court of the African company made a call of L5 on every L100 nominal stock, for vigorously carrying on their trade: and the same court most injudiciously resolved, that a dividend of 1½ per cent per annum be made to the proprietors of their stock.

The interference of the Ostend East-India company, and sundry other difficulties, at this time obliged the English East-India company to reduce their half-yearly dividend from 5 to 4 per cent.

1723.—Though four millions of the South-sea capital stock had been ingrafted (as we have shewn) into the capital stock of the bank of England, yet still that company's capital of L31,802,483: 14 was thought too large. At general courts their numbers had already been, and might hereafter be, tumultuous. The legislature therefor judging that inconveniencies were likely to arise from the great number of proprietors, determined to divide the capital into two equal moieties: by an act (of the 9th of King George I) 'for reviving and adding two millions to the said 'capital stock, and for dividing their whole capital' (after such addition made) 'into two equal moieties, &c.' The said two millions were hereby accordingly carried to each proprietor's account, making one sixteenth part, or L6: 5 per cent; and the capital, thus again made up

L33,802,483:14 (in conſideration of the proprietor's great loſſes from the bad execution of the ſcheme) was alſo hereby intitled to all arrears of intereſt, from midſummer 1722; and the whole was, after midſummer 1723, to be divided into two equal moieties,

The one moiety being - - -	L16,901,241	17	0
To be converted into a joint ſtock, to be called South-ſea annuities, bearing 5 per cent intereſt till midſummer 1727, when they ſhould be reduced to 4 per cent, and be farther redeemable by parliament. The other moiety to remain a capital, or joint trading ſtock in the company, attended with the remaining yearly fund, redeemable likewiſe after midſummer 1627, - -	16,901,241	17	0
The total of both, as above, being -	L33,802,483	14	0

Notwithſtanding which diviſion by this act, yet the real amount of each moiety was ſettled as follows, viz.

South-ſea annuities, - - - -	L16,901,240	1	8
South-ſea ſtock, - - - - -	16,901,243	12	4

the difference of L3:10:8 ariſing from leaving the odd penny of every proprietor's ſtock with his moiety of the capital trading ſtock.

The firſt payment of a quarter's intereſt on the joint ſtock of South-ſea annuities, being $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, was to be at michaelmas 1723; and from thence there were to be half-yearly payments at lady-day and michaelmas yearly; as on the other moiety, to remain capital South-ſea ſtock, the dividends were to remain as before, at midſummer and chriſtmas yearly.

This year the South-ſea company ſent out for La Vera Cruz, in Spaniſh Mexico, their rich annual ſhip, named the Royal Prince.

The abuſes committed by the inhabitants of a pretended privileged place, adjoining to the borough of Southwark, called Suffolk-place, or the Mint, had been long complained of, and had become a very great grievance. Such great numbers of debtors, ſheltering themſelves therein from the purſuit of their creditors, and audaciouſly bidding open defiance to the officers appointed to put the laws in execution, it became neceſſary to put an end to ſo ſhameful an abuſe, which was accordingly done, by an act of parliament, [9 *Geo. I, c.* 28] whereby it was made felony to obſtruct the execution of any writ, rule, or order, of any court of law or of equity, or of any eſcape warrant, or warrants of juſtices: and the ſheriff of Surrey was empowered to raiſe the *poſſe comitatus*, for taking by force any debtor out of the Mint: and ſundry other regulations are, in the ſame ſtatute, ordained for effectually preventing that or any other

place from committing ſuch open breaches of law and order for the future. So that from this time forward there has none dared to ſet on foot any pretended privileged place or ſanctuary anywhere in Great-Britain or Ireland for ſheltering debtors from the due courſe of law.

In this year Mr. William Wood (whom we have elſewhere mentioned as a great proprietor in iron and copper works) having obtained a patent for coining copper halfpence and farthings for the uſe of the kingdom of Ireland, to the amount of L100,000 ſterling, both houſes of the parliament of that kingdom, in their addreſſes to the king, warmly repreſented, that, under colour of the ſaid patent, great quantities of halfpence of different impreſſions, and of much leſs weight than is required by the patent, had been imported and attempted to be uttered in that kingdom: and that even though the terms of the patent had been ſtrictly complied with, there would have been a loſs to the nation of at leaſt 150 per cent by the ſaid coinage, and much greater, in the manner the halfpence have been coined.

Mr. Wood alleged, in his own vindication, that by the patent of King Charles II in 1680, and by that of King James II in 1684, a halfpenny was to weigh 110 grains, whereas his halfpenny weighed 116¾ grains, and was better copper than the ſaid halfpence; but he is ſilent as to the parliament's objection, of the quantity of copper in his halfpenny being leſs than required by the patent. In fine, a keen oppoſition was raiſed in Ireland, both within doors and without, and by pamphlets, newſpapers, &c. againſt that new copper coin, partly becauſe the patent was given to one who was not a native of Ireland, and becauſe the coin was altogether ſtamped in England; and partly alſo, that ſince a great profit was thereby to be made, that benefit ſhould have accrued principally to the public; (which reaſon, we confeſs, ſeems to carry great weight with it) and (we may add likewiſe) that great pains had been taken by party-men in Ireland, to inflame the people there againſt receiving the new copper money. The king, therefor, in compliance with the repreſentations of the parliament of Ireland, and the general diſpoſitions and inclinations of the people of that kingdom, altered the patent, that inſtead of L100,000 in copper coin, Mr. Wood might be permitted to ſend to Ireland only L40,000 in all, to be current only to ſuch as pleaſed voluntarily to accept of them; though to Mr. Wood's conſiderable detriment. Yet if the repreſentations of Mr. Wood be true, that the whole current caſh of Ireland does not exceed L400,000, and that the cuſtoms, exciſe, hearth-money, and quit-rents, amount to L.500,000 per annum, ſo as that one fourth part more than all the current caſh of that kingdom is annually paid into their exchequer, then, ſurely, this addition of L100,000 would have been a benefit to trade. And if Mr. Wood's coin was not to be received, they ſhould ſeriouſly have ſet about ſubſtituting a competent quantity of other copper coin in its ſtead.

Notwithſtanding a rebellion which broke out in 1715, and a dangerous conſpiracy againſt the eſtabliſhed conſtitution, diſcovered at the cloſe of the preceding year 1722, yet ſuch is the ſpirit and genius of the Britiſh nation for commerce, that it was ſeen and obſerved by all inquiſitive people to be ſtill conſtantly flouriſhing. Eraſmus Philips Eſquire, an author of good credit, gives us an inſtance thereof in his pamphlet, intitled, the State of the nation in reſpect of her commerce, debts, and money, [2d *ed.* 1726] which acquaints us, that from the year 1701 to 1723 the amount of the Britiſh cuſtoms was ſo conſiderable, that the net money paid into the exchequer, on an average for the ſaid twenty-three years, was L1,446,022 per annum; even excluſive of ſeizures: (which account nearly coincides with that before exhibited in the year 1715) and with ſeizures it amounted to L1,467,593 net money per annum.

He alſo gives us the quantity of ſilver and gold coined in the tower of London between the years 1701 and 1724, viz. in ſilver, only 175,464 pounds weight; and in gold no leſs than 241,183 pounds weight; which, valuing a pound weight of gold at L44 ſterling, makes the gold coined in England in twenty-three years time to amount in value to L10,612,052 ſterling. This vaſt coinage of gold in thoſe years was owing to our putting too high a value on gold in proportion to ſilver, whereby foreign nations were encouraged to import gold upon us in exchange for our ſilver; which inconvenience, as we have ſeen, was remedied by reducing guineas from 21*ſ* 6 to 21*ſ* by the advice of Sir Iſaac Newton.

After the confuſion and ſhameful jumble of the French company of the Indies, made by the authority of the duke of Orleans, regent of France during the minority of Louis XV, which conſolidated company was eſtabliſhed upon the original capital of the Weſtern company, and 25 millions of livres added thereto upon the union of the Eaſt-India company therewith; it was now judged requiſite, for reſtoring things to ſome order, that a reviſion ſhould be made of the actions poſſeſſed by the proprietors of this conſolidated company, for diſtinguiſhing (as was ſpeciouſly alleged) between ſuch as had acquired their property fairly by purchaſe, and ſuch as had by ſtock-jobbing forced themſelves into the company's books. The king therefor fixed the capital at 112 millions of livres, the annual intereſt on which was fixed (if any thing can be called fixed in France but the power of the monarch) at 8 millions, to be paid out of the farm of tobacco, and the profits of the furs from Canada. And the commerce of the Indies was aſſigned to the company as a collateral ſecurity for the preſent, to be employed for enlarging the funds and for diſcharging the incumbrances thereon. Yet, till many years after this time, the Eaſt-India trade of France was managed in a very languid manner, they being obliged to pay off many old debts, to rebuild their ſhips and factories, and to lay out above 15

millions for improving Louiſiana, and for completing the ſuperb works of Port l'Orient. But Orry coming to be at the head of the French finances in the year 1737, he ſo effectually ſupported and improved the Eaſt-India company, that their public ſale at Port L'Orient in 1742 amounted to 24 millions of livres, (or about one million ſterling) which greatly alarmed England and Holland, who did not at firſt know that all this fine appearance was chiefly ſupported by the crown, until the war with England in the year 1744 obliged Orry to declare to the company, that they muſt now ſtand on their own legs. Notwithſtanding all which, and the ſtoppage of their dividends at that time, they have ſince vaſtly improved their commerce and power in India, even almoſt to the preſent time.

1724.—After much debate in ſeveral of the general courts of the South-ſea company concerning the utility of attempting a Greenland trade or whale fiſhery, wherein it was plainly ſhewn, that former Greenland companies were ſo unſucceſsful as to run out their whole capital, and that ſome foreign nations have ſundry advantages over our people in reſpect to this fiſhery, the company at length reſolved to commence that fiſhery. It was certainly a well-intended and popular reſolution, and was agreeable to the powers granted by the firſt act of parliament, and to the royal charter, for erecting the company, as well as to part of the title given to it by the royal charter. In order to encourage the company, an act of parliament, for encouraging the Greenland fiſhery, repealed the duty of threepence per pound weight on whale-fins; and decreed that whale-fins, oil and blubber of whales, caught and imported in Britiſh ſhips, (whereof the commander and at leaſt one third of the mariners to be Britiſh ſubjects) ſhould abſolutely be cuſtom-free for ſeven years from chriſtmas 1724. [10 *Geo. I, c.* 16.]

And by another act, the freedom from all cuſtom whatever was extended to Davis's ſtraits and the ſeas adjacent, and alſo comprehended therein ſeal-oil, ſeal-ſkins, or any other produce of ſeals, or other fiſh or creatures, caught in any of thoſe ſeas, ſuch as the large white bears, ſo commonly found on the ice there, and ſea-horſes, or morſes, alſo very numerous in thoſe ſeas. [12 *Geo. I, c.* 26.]

Yet, it being too late for the fiſhery of the preſent year, they directed twelve fine ſhips, of 306 tons each, to be built in the river Thames, and proper quantities of hemp from Riga, and caſk-ſtaves from Hamburgh, to be got ready for the enſuing ſpring: the company alſo hired the duke of Bedford's great wet dock at Deptford for the uſe of their ſhips and ſtores, and for curing their oil and whale-fins.

This year alſo the South-ſea company ſent out their rich annual ſhip for Carthagena and Portobello in the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies.

1725.—In the year 1725 the South-ſea company commenced their unfortunate whale fiſhery. Their twelve ſhips brought home twenty-

five whales and a half. * And, though this was ſcarcely a ſaving voyage, it was nevertheleſs the very beſt year of any of the eight in which they carried on that fiſhery. It muſt be noted, that the nation having entirely relinquiſhed this trade for ſo many years paſt, there was not an Engliſhman to be found who knew any thing of the whale fiſhery; and the company were obliged to have all their commanders, harpooneers, boatſteerers, line-veerers, and blubber-cutters, from Fohrde in Holſtein, (ſome few natives of Scotland excepted, who on this occaſion left the ſervice of the Dutch) who had before this time been conſtantly employed either by the Hamburghers, Bremers, or Dutch. Thoſe Holſteiners coſt the company this year L3056 : 18 : 3, although but 152 in number; not only becauſe they were all what are uſually called officers in that fiſhery, and conſequently had more wages and allowances than the common ſailors, but had alſo their charges born by the company, both in coming every year from, and returning back to, Holſtein to their families, as was alſo their conſtant practice when employed by other nations: whereas above double their number, viz. 353 Britiſh ſubjects employed on thoſe twelve ſhips, coſt but L3151 : 15 : 5.

By an act for continuing the ſeveral annuities to the bank of England until midſummer 1727, &c. the yearly fund on the principal ſums of L1,775,027 : 17 : 10½, and of L2,000,000, due to that corporation, was reduced from 5 to 4 per cent after midſummar 1727: and all the funds of the bank were put on an equal footing with thoſe of the South-ſea company; excepting only the bank's original capital of L1,600,000, which ſtill remained at 6 per cent. [11 *Geo. I, c.* 9.]

This act alſo made it felony to alter, forge, or counterfeit, bank notes, or to eraſe or alter any indorſement thereon; or to tender in payment, utter, vend, exchange, or barter, any ſuch bank note, knowing the ſame to be altered, forged, eraſed, or counterfeited, with intention to defraud the bank, or any other perſon or body politic.

About this time the French began to ſupply the European markets with great quantities of their ſugars from Martinico, Hiſpaniola, &c. formerly and almoſt totally ſupplied by us, (though in part they are ſtill ſupplied by the Portugueſe Braſil ſugars, and, of late, by the Dutch from Surinam). And in a few years after, by their great application, they gained from us the greateſt part of that very profitable branch of commerce. The anonymous author of the Preſent ſtate of the Britiſh and French ſugar colonies, (printed in 1740,) makes the French ſugars exported to the European markets amount to ſo vaſt a quantity as 80,000 hogſheads yearly, and the indigo raiſed by the French in their Weſt-India colonies, in value to one million of ſterling money; three

* When two ſhips ſtrike the ſame whale, it is, by the cuſtom of the fiſhery, divided between them.

fourths of which they ſell to other nations. And they alſo export to other European nations, in cacao, cotton, ginger, rum, (he might have added, coffee, &c.) about L250,000 yearly; to all which may be added the freight thereon; the great number of perſons, both in Europe and America, as well as in their ſhips, conſtantly maintained thereby; the great conſumption of the product and manufactures of France, both in the Weſt-Indies, and on the African coaſts for the purchaſe of their ſlaves; and then we need not wonder, that even ſo long ago as the year 1701, the new French council of commerce, in a memorial, could ſay, that the navigation of France owed all its increaſe and ſplendour to the commerce of its ſugar iſlands, and that it could not be kept up and enlarged otherwiſe than by that commerce.

1726.—Twelve more ſhips being built by the South-ſea company, they ſent out 24 ſhips on their ſecond voyage on the whale fiſhery to Greenland and Davis's ſtraits. But they now ſucceeded conſiderably worſe than in their firſt voyage, having brought home but ſixteen whales and an half.

In Mr. Philips's State of the nation in reſpect to her commerce, debts and money, he gives us a ſummary view of the Engliſh Eaſt-India company's trade, and of its benefits to the public; about which, however, men are ſtill far from being generally agreed.

He ſays, the company's ſales have for many years paſt exceeded L2,200,000 yearly; conſiſting of wrought and raw ſilk, calicoes, ſaltpetre, drugs, tea, coffee, cotton, and cotton-yarn, Carmenia wool, &c.

That L1,000,000 thereof may probably be conſumed at home *.

That the company's exports annually to India are to the value of L500,000 in bullion and manufactures †.

To the million conſumed at home he adds L400,000, to be deducted for the drawback allowed at the cuſtom-houſe upon the L1,200,000 re-exported. And concludes,

That the remaining L800,000 is, or ſhould be, the annual gain to the nation by the Eaſt-India trade.

Now, to this balance of national gain ought certainly to have been added the total of our manufactures exported to India. What he adds is very true, that the company's trade maintains very many people at home, as well as conſiderable numbers of our people in India, who bring home much wealth to their native country. But what he ſays about our Eaſt-India trade having brought down the price of other European wares, which we uſed before we entered into it, ſeems of little conſideration in this ſtate of the company. Moreover, ſays he, if

* It is to be feared that this computation is rather under the truth. *A.*

† It is ſtrange to mix bullion and manufactures together. The exportation of the later is univerſally allowed to be profitable, while that of the former is generally ſuppoſed detrimental. *A.*

the Eaſt-India merchandize re-exported pay for ſuch European goods, for which, without this trade, we muſt have paid in caſh, it is in effect the ſame as if it brought in ſo much caſh or bullion. As this trade alſo furniſhes us with what otherwiſe we muſt neceſſarily have bought of the Dutch *, poſſibly the nation's yearly profit by it may be near one million ſterling.

Laſtly, in contemplation of the vaſt exportation of ſilver from all Europe to Eaſt-India, there buried ſince 1602, ſo as never to return, computed to amount to 150 millions ſterling; had that vaſt ſum remained to this day in Europe, whereby our proportion of caſh would have been triple to what it now is, the conſequence would have been, that commodities and labour would probably have riſen in a triple proportion; and, in effect, we ſhould not have been richer in ſuch a caſe than we are at preſent.

He has here forgotten the national benefit from a very great annual ſum paid for the cuſtom of Eaſt-India goods conſumed at home, ſaid to amount to above L300,000. And, that a conſiderable part of the million of Eaſt-India commodities, annually conſumed or remaining at home, is worked up in our great and very profitable manufactures of ſilk and cotton, and much of the drugs are alſo employed therein.

This year the king granted the Eaſt-India company a new charter of confirmation, with ample powers for them to erect a corporation at Fort St. George, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Madraſpatan in the Eaſt-Indies; another corporation at the factory and town of Bombay, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Bombay; and a third corporation within the factory of Fort William in Bengal, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Calcutta at Fort William in Bengal; with perpetual ſucceſſion to each of the ſaid three corporations, and a common ſeal; to make bye laws, and to try cauſes both civil and criminal, high-treaſon excepted.

Philips, ſpeaking of the circulation of money, ſuppoſes, that France is to England as eight is to three; that their ſpecie or money is perhaps proportionable. Yet there is a greater ſhew of money in England than in France; but if the circulation of France were equal to that of England, France would appear of courſe ſo much richer than England.

Poſſibly (ſays he) the real yearly rents of England may be - - - - - L20,000,000
it being ſuppoſed that our lands are not taxed at half their value.

The cuſtoms of England produce annually about - 1,600,000

Which cuſtoms, on an average of 30 per cent *ad valorem*, make the value of our annual imports to be about - 5,300,000

* Meaning (we preſume) ſaltpetre, pepper, and drugs. *4.*

And our re-exportations may be about - -	1,500,000
The other duties and funds may be about - -	2,199,328
If there be eight millions of people in England, I believe I ſhall not exceed in ſuppoſing them to conſume in manufactures about - - - - -	16,000,000
Now, although the intereſt ariſing from mortgaged lands be included in the before-named rental, yet the mortgages themſelves are often transferred, and may therefor be deemed money in circulation: and theſe have been computed at one fifteenth part of the whole value of the lands, or about - - - - -	26,000,000
The national debt about - - -	53,000,000
The malt-tax about - - - -	600,000
So that the whole money-tranſactions of this nation ſeems to be about - - - - -	L126,199,328

This Mr. Philips ſpeaks of as a ſtupendous thought.

Now, though this computation may in general be thought liable to ſome exception, yet ſome parts of it may hereafter ſtrike out new lights, or at leaſt ſtart new thoughts, for juſter computations.

While Britain and the ſtates-general of the United Netherlands were remonſtrating at Vienna, and promulgating acts of parliament and placarts againſt the continuance of the Oſtend company's trade to India, that company's general court reſolved this year to make a dividend of 12 per cent to their proprietors, and to maintain their ſettlement at Coblore on the coaſt of Coromandel, their factories at Bengal, and their trade to Canton in China. Nevertheleſs, we ſhall ſoon ſee an end put to that company. For, though neither gratitude for paſt benefits, nor regard for the cleareſt and ſtrongeſt treaties, could prevail at Vienna, the reſolutions of the two powers, ſo nearly intereſted in the ſuppreſſion of that company by main force, became too ſtrong to be much longer reſiſted.

The weſtern ſuburbs of London ſo greatly increaſing, wherein perſons of quality and diſtinction uſually reſide, the legiſlature, by a clauſe in an act for granting an aid to his majeſty by laying a duty upon all victuallers, &c. empowered the commiſſioners for hackney coaches and chairs to add one hundred hackney chairs to the former numbers, ſo as the whole exceed not 400 in number: each of which ſhall continue to pay 10*s* per annum for their licences.

By an act of parliament of the 12th of King George I, for better ſecuring the monies and effects of the ſuitors of the court of chancery, &c. it was made felony without benefit of clergy, not only to forge or counterfeit the name or hand of the accountant-general of the court of

chancery, and of the regiſter and clerk of the report-office, but likewiſe the name or hand of any of the caſhiers of the bank of England, to any certificate, report, entry, indorſement, declaration of truſt, note, direction, authority, inſtrument, or writing whatſoever, for receiving or obtaining money or effects of ſuitors in chancery: as alſo any bond or obligation under the ſeals of the Eaſt-India and South-ſea companies, or any indorſement thereon.

1727.—The South-ſea company having built another new ſhip for the whale fiſhery, they ſent out their whole twenty-five ſhips in the year 1727 on that fiſhery; wherein were employed 1106 men, viz. 762 Britiſh ſubjects and 344 foreigners. This alſo proved an unfortunate voyage, two of the ſhips being loſt, and the remaining twenty-three ſhips brought home but 22½ whales.

The great river and bay of Delaware, and the ſeas adjoining, abounding with fiſh of various kinds, fit for foreign markets, whereby the trade of Great Britain, as well as the inhabitants of the province of Pennſylvania, would reap conſiderable benefits, eſpecially by enabling the later to purchaſe more of the Britiſh manufactures than at preſent they are able to do, an act of parliament now paſſed, in the 13th year of King George I, for importing ſalt from Europe into the province of Pennſylvania in Britiſh ſhips, navigated as by the acts of navigation, for curing their fiſh, in like ſort as is practiſed in New-England and Newfoundland, by virtue of an act of the 15th of King Charles II.

Nothing can more obviouſly demonſtrate the amazing increaſe of England's commerce in leſs than two centuries paſt, than the great increaſe of many of its commercial and manufacturing towns; ſuch, for inſtance, as the town and port of Liverpool in Lancaſhire, which in our days is become the greateſt emporium of the Britiſh empire, next after London and Briſtol: and, though it is allowed to be an antient corporation and borough, it was nevertheleſs ſo inconſiderable in point of population and magnitude, even in the laſt generation, as not to be a ſeparate pariſh within itſelf, till the year 1699, by an act of parliament of the 10th and 11th of King William, when a new pariſh-church was erected, there being only a chapel there till then. In the year 1715, it was ſo much increaſed, that, by an act of the 1ſt of King George I, a ſecond pariſh and church was erected in it. The author of the third volume of the Tour through the whole iſland of Great Britain, publiſhed in 1727, obſerves, that in his firſt viſit to Liverpool in 1680, it was a large handſome thriving town. At his ſecond viſit, ten years after, it was become much bigger; and, as the inhabitants reported, twice as large as it was twenty years before: but at his third viſit, in 1726, it was more than double its bigneſs at the time of his ſecond viſit in the year 1690. And it is ſtill increaſing in wealth, people, buſineſs, and buildings.

This ſame author, treating of Manchester, in the ſame county, obſerves, that within a very few years paſt, here, as at Liverpool, and alſo at Froome in Somerſetſhire, the town is extended in a ſurpriſing manner; being almoſt double to what it was a few years ago: ſo that, taking in all its ſuburbs, it now (1727) contains at leaſt 50,000 people. 'That 'the grand manufacture which has ſo much raiſed this town, is that of 'cotton in all its varieties, which, like all our other manufactures, is 'very much increaſed within theſe 30 or 40 years.' Nevertheleſs, this vaſt place is but a mere village in point of government, as having no officer higher than a conſtable: whereby it may poſſibly be the largeſt village in Chriſtendom, according to our legal ſenſe of that term.

The like increaſe, and very near as ſudden, has happened to the town of Birmingham in Warwickſhire; which, in point of government, is as much a village as Manchester. Its vaſt increaſe is entirely owing to its iron and hard-ware manufacture of a great variety of ſorts, whereby it is ſaid to employ upwards of 30,000 people.

In March this year, departed this life, the incomparably great and excellent Sir Iſaac Newton, aged 85, preſident of the royal ſociety, maſter of his majeſty's mint: probably the greateſt philoſopher, and undoubtedly the greateſt mathematician, in Europe, whoſe entire character, however, we are far from pretending to draw. It ſhall only ſuffice us to ſay, in one word, that he has not left his equal, in all probability, on the face of the whole earth; having, even by all the learned of foreign nations, been allowed the pre-eminence, and to be the unrivalled glory of the Britiſh name and nation.

This year the general court of the South-ſea company agreed to diſcharge all the borrowers of money on their ſtock and ſubſcriptions in the famous year 1720, who had not already repaid the ſame, on condition of their paying back only 10 per cent of the money ſo borrowed.

The general court of the royal African company made ſeveral reſolutions for carrying on their trade, and preventing the ſeparate traders from interfering with them: for reducing their then nominal capital ſtock, ſo as every L800 be reduced to L100, and ſo as their whole capital ſhall not exceed L400,000, including therein a certain quantity of additional ſtock, to be created in their corporate capacity, and to be ſold out to individuals, for enabling them to carry on their trade. But it all came to nothing.

The iſland of Madagaſcar lying within the Eaſt-India company's limits of trade, an act of parliament of this 13th year of King George I was obtained, to enable the South-ſea company, with the licence and conſent of the Eaſt-India company, to take in negroes there, and to deliver the ſame at Buenos-Ayres: the South-ſea company giving ſecurity to the Eaſt-India company not to break bulk anywhere within the limits of the later company, nor to ſail to any place within their limits, except

Madagaſcar, under forfeiture of their ſhips, furniture, and ladings, and of double the value. This act to continue for ſix years only; and the South-ſea company was thereby limited to four ſhips annually, and to carry to Madagaſcar nothing but the neceſſary proviſions, &c. ſolely for the purchaſe of negroes. About this time, the South-ſea company actually employed upwards of 30 ſhips and ſloops, beſide their great annual ſhip, in their negro trade to the Spaniſh ports of America, and in making returns for the ſame.

By another ſtatute of this ſame year and ſeſſion, for enlarging the time for hearing and determining claims by the truſtees for raiſing money on the eſtates of the late directors of the South-ſea company and others, the net produce of thoſe eſtates is directed to be applied ſolely for the benefit of the company.

In this year William Burnet Eſquire, the worthy governor of New-York, having duely conſidered, that the main ſupport of the French colony of Canada was the fur and peltry trade with the Indians; and that, moreover, their towns of Quebec and Montreal were chiefly ſupplied with European merchandize by our merchants of New-York, at a much cheaper rate than they had them from France, he rightly inferred, that, if the traders of New-York were totally debarred from carrying their goods to Canada, they might themſelves directly, or at firſt hand, ſupply the Indian tribes near the lakes of Canada with Engliſh merchandize: for that end he obtained an act of the aſſembly of New-York, for opening a moſt profitable trade directly with thoſe Indian nations, who till now had dealt entirely with the French of Canada. For which purpoſe the New-York aſſembly was at the expenſe, this very year, of building and fortifying a trading place at Oſwego on the eaſt bank of lake Ontario, where they continued to keep a garriſon (till they were aſſaulted and driven out by the French from Canada in the year 1757, that fort having been too ſlightly built) and had upwards of 300 traders there, who conſtantly met the Indians from Canada, and from the great lakes weſt and north from lake Ontario, and ſouth from lake Erie. This was a promiſing ſtep towards acquiring all the inland trade of North-America, by erecting fortified truck-houſes on the farther lakes in, and weſt of, Canada. But in ſucceeding times the French in thoſe parts were, through our ſhameful ſupineneſs, ſuffered to make gradual incroachments on the boundaries of that and our other northern provinces of America, till it became very near too late to put a ſtop to their career.

By a ſtatute [13 *Geo. I, c.* 3] for redeeming ſundry annuities transferable at the bank of England, and the annuities payable on ſtanding orders, &c. all the redeemable annuities transferable at the bank, and thoſe aſſignable at the exchequer, which were not ſubſcribed into the

South-ſea company in the year 1720, were now paid off by the ſinking fund.

By another ſtatute of this ſeſſion, for the regulation of the woollen manufacture, &c. the juſtices of the counties of Glouceſter, Wilts, and Somerſet, were empowered to appoint a certain number of inſpectors in each of thoſe counties, with a ſalary of L30 each yearly; who ſhould, on every week-day, have power to enter into and inſpect all mills, work-houſes, and tenter-grounds, of clothiers, &c. concerned in manufacturing and milling mixed or medley woollen broad cloths, for meaſuring, and otherwiſe examining the goodneſs thereof; and to certify their ſufficiency by a leaden ſeal with the inſpector's name. This office is inſtead of the antient one of aulneger, and alſo of the ſubſequent inſpectors, who, for want of ſufficient checks, were become uſeleſs. Theſe inſpectors were to lay their regiſter books before every general quarter-ſeſſion for each county, with an account of all penalties and forfeitures incurred by the makers of inſufficient cloths.

By another ſtatute of this ſeſſion, for preventing frauds and abuſes in the dying trade, penalties are inflicted on dyers of black bays, and other woollen goods, without woad, indigo, or madder. And a penalty is alſo inflicted on every perſon uſing logwood in the dying of blue in any kind of woollen goods.

After all the buſtle which the Auſtrian Netherlands and the court of Vienna had ſo long made about their Oſtend company's trade to the Indies, the arguments urged by Britain and Holland were ſo cogent, and ſo effectually powerful, that the emperor now found himſelf neceſſitated, firſt to ſuſpend that company's charter for ſeven years, and afterwards to revoke it entirely.

The king of Spain having now in vain laid ſiege to Gibraltar, before any formal declaration of war againſt the crown of Great-Britain, he at the ſame time ordered a ſeizure of all the effects of the South-ſea company in America, with the great ſhip Prince Frederick and its cargo at La Vera Cruz, to the amount of upwards of L120,000 ſterling. And this was the ſecond time that the court of Madrid made ſuch ſudden ſeizures; whereby the precarioufneſs of this company's trade to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies did now but too plainly appear.

At midſummer this year the reduction of the intereſt on the national debt from 5 to 4 per cent took place; whereby the famous ſinking fund was increaſed to above one million per annum. Had thoſe, whoſe province it properly was, kept punctually to the paying off at leaſt one million of the public debts annually, from this year 1727 to the year 1739, when we declared war againſt Spain, in how much eaſier a ſituation would the nation then have been? Inſtead of which frugal meaſure, that ſacred fund has been, either directly or indirectly, ſacrilegiouſly and wantonly violated, to the inconceivable damage of the nation's commerce, which

otherwiſe would have long ſince been greatly eaſed by the abolition of many taxes, duties, and cuſtoms, which are at preſent very heavy clogs on our manufactures and foreign commerce, and enable our rivals to underſell us at foreign markets, to our unſpeakable detriment. By the neceſſary operation of the ſinking fund of only one million yearly, it was very plainly ſhewn, by a judicious pamphlet, intitled, an Eſſay on the public debts of this kingdom, 'that, ſuppoſing the national debt, 'then of 50 millions, and the ſinking fund of one million, to be both 'at 4 per cent intereſt, the later increaſing annually in like proportion 'as ſuch a ſum put out to compound intereſt would do, the whole na-'tional debt would have been diſcharged by the year 1756.'

We ſhall here only farther note, that upon this ſecond reduction of the intereſt of our national debts, their market price advanced very conſiderably.

In this ſame year an act of parliament paſſed for encouraging and promoting fiſheries, manufactures, and other improvements, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland; whereby the crown was empowered to appoint commiſſioners for managing the application of the funds for improving fiſheries and commerce there: and thoſe commiſſioners were annually to lay before the king any alterations neceſſary for improving the fiſheries and manufactures of that country.

By a ſtatute [1 *Geo. II, c.* 8.] for granting an aid to his majeſty by ſale of annuities to the bank of England, at 4 per cent, charged on the duties on coals and culm, &c. the bank fund was increaſed by L.70,000 intereſt on L1,750,000 advanced on thoſe duties, redeemable by parliament. And the bank hereupon thought it prudent to declare a reduction of the yearly dividend on their capital ſtock from 6 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, from lady-day 1728.

By this ſame ſtatute a million of the national debt was paid off out of the ſinking-fund, viz. L500,000 to the South-ſea company, which was to be paid off by ſinking ſo much of the undiſtributed ſtock forfeited by the late directors, &c. in the year 1720; which was to go to pay the company's debts. Hereupon that company ſunk L250,000 from the capital ſtock, and the like ſum from South-ſea annuity ſtock.

And L500,000 was in like manner paid to the bank of England, being part of the two millions added to their capital by an act of the 3d of King George I, whereby the total of their capital ſtock was reduced to L4,875,027 : 17 : $10\frac{1}{2}$.

1728.—By a preliminary convention between Great Britain and Spain, ſigned at the Pardo near Madrid on the 6th of March 1728, it was agreed, on the one hand, that his Britannic majeſty ſhould withdraw his fleets from the coaſts of Spain, and from the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies; and that the diſputes concerning the contraband trade, and other cauſes of complaint, which the Spaniards may have in relation to the ſhip Prince Fre-

derick, and the reſtoration of prizes taken on each ſide, ſhould be decided at a future congreſs.

On the other hand, Spain agreed immediately to raiſe the blockade of Gibraltar; to order the ſhip Prince Frederick, with her cargo, to be delivered to the South-ſea company's agents at La Vera Cruz; and to reſtore the commerce of that company with Spaniſh America, agreeable to the aſſiento contract.

By a treaty of peace and commerce between the king of Great Britain and the emperor of Morocco, ſigned at Mequinez, it was now ſtipulated,

I) That all Moors and Jews, ſubjects of Morocco, ſhould be allowed a free traffic for thirty days in the city of Gibraltar and at the iſland of Minorca, though not to reſide at either place; but to depart with their effects, without moleſtation, to any part of the Morocco dominions.

II) On the other hand, the Britiſh ſubjects in Barbary ſhould not be obliged to appear before the cadi or the juſtices of the country, but only before the governor of the place: and the Britiſh conſuls are to take cognizance of, and adjuſt, the differences they may have with the natives of the country.

III) The menial ſervants of Britiſh ſubjects, though natives of the country, either Moors or Jews, are exempted from taxes of all kinds.

IV) Britiſh ſubjects, taken on board foreign ſhips by the ſubjects of Morocco, ſhall immediately be ſet at liberty, and ſent to Gibraltar.

V) Proviſions may be freely bought, and other neceſſaries, for his Britannic majeſty's fleets, or for his city of Gibraltar, in any port of the emperor of Morocco, at the market prices, and be ſhipped off without paying cuſtom.

Theſe conceſſions from that barbarous people are extremely honourable to Britain; but they will be no longer kept than we are maſters at ſea, and are in poſſeſſion of the moſt important fortreſs and port of Gibraltar.

About this time the colonies of South and North Carolina were grievouſly afflicted with invaſions from the Indians in their neighbourhood, whereby the people were unable, even with what aſſiſtance they could procure from neighbouring colonies, to withſtand thoſe ſavages. And the proprietors being unwilling to take upon themſelves the expenſe of this Indian war, the deputies of thoſe colonies humbly beſought the king to take them under his protection. Whereupon, the duke of Beaufort, the lord Craven, Sir John Colleton, James Bertie, Dodington Greville, Henry Bertie, John Cotton, and Joſeph Blakes, Eſquires, Mary Dawſon, and Elizabeth Moore, being the repreſentatives of the original proprietors of ſeven eighth parts of thoſe two provinces, either in their own right, or in truſt, declaring, by petition to his majeſty, their willingneſs to ſurrender their charters to the crown for a valuable con-

ſideration, an act of parliament was thereupon paſſed, in the 2d year of King George II, for eſtabliſhing an agreement with ſeven of the proprietors of Carolina for the ſurrender of their title and intereſt in that province to his majeſty. In conſideration whereof the ſaid ſeven proprietors were to be paid the ſum of L17,500, being L2500 for each ſeventh part, and L5000 more for the arrears of quit-rents, &c. due to them. Thus for ſo ſmall a ſum as L22,500 were ſeven eighth parts of thoſe fine provinces made regal governments from the 1ſt of June 1729. And as Lord Carteret choſe to retain the other remaining eighth part of Carolina in his own right, a clauſe in the act of parliament reſerves to him, his heirs, executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, all ſuch eſtate, right, title, &c. to one undivided eighth part or ſhare of the ſaid provinces, and one eighth part of all arrears of quit-rents, &c. thereof. Notwithſtanding which, the government of the whole is hereby made entirely regal; And in this regal ſtate Carolina, under two ſeparate governors, councils, and aſſemblies, has wonderfully flouriſhed and increaſed in trade and commerce, and has extended its plantations farther weſtward. Proper ſupplies and relief having been ſent thither by the crown, the neighbouring Indians were reduced to live in a peaceable condition till very lately, when alſo they have again been reduced to reaſonable terms, after much bloodſhed.

The South-ſea company this year ſent out their twenty-three remaining ſhips for the whale fiſhery, and returned with only the blubber and fins of eighteen whales; which was undoubtedly a loſing voyage.

This year the Britiſh houſe of commons preſented to the king a particular account of the national debts contracted before chriſtmas 1716, and how much thereof has been ſince diſcharged by the ſinking fund, though till now but in its infancy; which debt ſo diſcharged amounted to L2,698,416:9:7¾ ſince chriſtmas 1716. That by the ſeveral reductions, from 6 to 5, and from 5 now to 4 per cent, on the greateſt part of the public debts, ſo great ſavings of intereſt have been made, that the ſinking fund may now be eſtimated to be about L1,200,000 per annum; and will be every year increaſing from the farther ſavings of the intereſt of the remaining debts from time to time, as they ſhall be paid off. This increaſe of the ſinking fund from L400,000 to about L1,200,000 (ſince midſummer 1727) being in the hands of the government, and applicable from time to time to the diſcharge of the principal, makes a gain and profit to the public, equal to the diſcharge of one third of the principal debt; ſo that the additional L800,000 to the ſinking fund, if valued at twenty-five years purchaſe, at which rate all annuities are now currently ſold, makes a real profit to the public of twenty millions. And if, notwithſtanding the many difficulties this nation has laboured under, by an unnatural rebellion, and by the many heinous plots and conſpiracies ſince formed, for overturning the religion

and liberties of our country, and notwithſtanding the embroiled condition of the affairs of Europe, we have been able to diminiſh the national debt ſo much already, what may we not hope for in regard to a ſpeedy and ſenſible diſcharge of it for the future? Upon this repreſentation we ſhall only in brief remark, as many have before done, that, notwithſtanding all ſuch difficulties, as are above enumerated, much more might ſurely have been done for increaſing the ſinking fund, by abſolutely preſerving it inviolable; though it be allowed, that it would have been attended with many and great difficulties, conſidering that a ſecond rebellion, and two very expenſive wars, have happened ſince that repreſentation was made. What is paſt needs not to be enlarged on: but ſurely hereafter, eſpecially in times of peace, a determined national frugality ought zealouſly to be cultivated *; and it is earneſtly to be hoped and wiſhed, that, in order to increaſe the ſinking fund, the public might be relieved by a rational reduction of the ſalaries of many uſeleſs offices and employments in the revenue, &c. the fee-ſimple whereof would amount to a greater ſum than perhaps many may apprehend, were a ſtrict inquiry made thereinto.

In a vindication of the iſland of Jamaica at this time, from certain aſperſions on the conduct of the planters and of their aſſembly, and pleading for ſome favours from the legiſlature of Great Britain, it was computed, that the trade of that iſland employs 300 ſail of ſhips, and about 6000 ſeamen; and that the very duties on the imports from thence amount to near L100,000 per annum. That there are eight fine harbours in it, beſide many coves and bays where ſhips may ſafely ride: there are alſo 84 rivers which diſcharge into the ſea, and ſeven times as many leſſer rivers and ſprings which run into them. That its principal productions, beſides ſugars, are, cotton, ginger, pimento, mahogany, logwood, and indigo. That very little of the four laſt commodities are imported from the reſt of the Britiſh plantations: ſo that, but for Jamaica, we ſhould be obliged to purchaſe them of the French, Dutch, and other nations. That cotton is neceſſary to work up with wool in many of our manufactures, &c. Ginger is chiefly exported, though great quantities are likewiſe uſed at home. Their pimento leſſens the conſumption of ſpices, which are only to be had of the Dutch at their own rates. That indigo, logwood, fuſtic, &c. are uſed by dyers, and are abſolutely neceſſary in many of our manufactures; and that, before we had thoſe commodities of our own, we paid five times the prices for them we now do, and for ſome of them more. That, before our Weſt-India plantations were ſettled, we paid the Portugueſe from L4 to L5 per cwt for muſcovado ſugars, now ſold from 32ſ to 35ſ, and

* Non intelligunt homines quantum vectigal ſit parſimonia! *Ciceronis Paradoxa* 6.
People do not conſider how great a revenue economy is!

above L5 per cwt. for ginger, now commonly ſold at 22/6. That our dyers wares were bought of the Spaniards, to whom we paid for logwood from L100 to L130 per ton, which may now be had at L9 per ton; and other goods uſed in dying, proportionably. So that, by having thoſe plantations, we not only ſave ſo much as was formerly paid for thoſe commodities to foreigners, but we are alſo able to furniſh other nations therewith; and our manufacturers, by having them at leſs prices than they formerly had them, are enabled to ſell their commodities proportionably cheaper, which is undoubtedly a very great advantage to the nation. [*Boyer's Political ſtate of Great Britain, V.* 25, *for February* 1728.]

This vindication, or ſurvey of the benefits of Jamaica and our other Weſt-India colonies to their mother-country, places them in ſo advantageous a light, and gives alſo ſo clear, though ſuccinct, a view of our commerce with them, that it well merits a place in this work.

This year, the Daniſh Eaſt-India company, reſiding at Copenhagen, publiſhed propoſals for a new ſubſcription to be taken at Altona near Hamburgh, for enlarging their antient capital ſtock.

I) 'The new ſubſcribers to be equally entitled to all the benefits 'and privileges which the old members poſſeſs, in reſpect of the trade, 'ſhipping, forts, ſettlements, revenues, houſes, and other effects what-'ever.

II) 'The old capital, conſiſting of 250,000 rixdollars, divided into '250 ſhares, each being of 1000 rixdollars, to retain likewiſe equal benefits with the new ſubſcribers.

III) 'The company, after this union with the new ſubſcribers, were, 'in their joint capacity, to pay off their entire debts, conſiſting of '160,000 rixdollars; but the old proprietors were not to be entitled to 'any dividend till the year 1733.

IV) 'The actions, or ſhares, of the new ſubſcribers to conſiſt of '1,000 rixdollars each, and the half ſhares to be 500 rixdollars: for 'each transfer to pay two rixdollars to the company, and half a one 'to the poor.

V) 'The company's creditors may take new actions thereof for the 'debts due to them.

VI) 'The king, by his octroy, declares, that the ſhares ſhall not be 'liable to any ſeizure or ſtop, upon any account whatever *.

VII) 'The money ariſing by new ſubſcriptions to be wholely em-'ployed for ſending out ſhips to Tranquebar †, Bengal, and China.

VIII) 'The four additional or new directors may be all foreigners; 'and ten ſhares to be the qualification ſtock of every director. Every 'ſingle ſhare ſhall have one vote in the general courts; and a proprie-

* The reader needs not be told, that Denmark is an abſolute monarchy. *A.*

† Tranquebar is their own fort on the Coromandel coaſt. *A.*

' tor of 20 ſhares ſhall have 20 votes; and none ſhall have any more ' votes than 20, although their ſhares be ever ſo many.

IX) ' If any two directors ſhall be diſſatisfied with the conduct of the ' other directors, they may ſummon a general court to acquaint the ' company therewith.

X) ' The general courts have plenary power to do whatever they ' ſhall judge convenient for the advantage of the company.

XI) ' The new ſhares to be ſubſcribed ſhall not exceed 2250, i. e. ' in the whole; and the new or additional ſtock ſhall not exceed 2,250,000 rixdollars.'

N. B. There were 25 other articles of leſſer importance.

To theſe propoſals the old company, for removing any objections which might be made in reſpect to their circumſtances, added, that they had very valuable effects, ſuch as, the town of Tranquebar, a very important place, with 200 pieces of cannon, beſides ammunition, and a yearly income of 10,000 crowns, and alſo ſeveral duties and revenues, increaſing every year in proportion to the increaſe of inhabitants. That they alſo had the caſtle of Danneburgh on the rich coaſt of Coromandel, conveniently ſituated for trade, and particularly for pearls and diamonds; alſo Porto-novo, on the ſame coaſt; two ſhips, with their cargoes, now at ſea, bound to Tranquebar; and ſome other ſhips and factories, &c. From all which particulars, a nearly exact ſtate of the Daniſh Eaſt-India company's circumſtances and commerce may be gathered; not much, however, to their advantage.

There arrived at London, from foreign ports, between chriſtmas 1727 and chriſtmas 1728, 1839 Britiſh ſhips; 21 3foreign ſhips; and 6837 coaſters; being in all 8889 veſſels. The number is conſiderably increaſed in later years.

By an act of parliament, in the ſecond year of King George II, for raiſing the ſum of L1,250,000 by ſale of annuities to the bank of England, &c. the bank advanced that ſum to the public at 4 per cent intereſt, charged on the ſurpluſſes of the fund of lottery 1714, redeemable from midſummer 1730, by payments of not leſs than L500,000 at a time. Yet this low intereſt obliged the bank to reduce their dividend from 3 to 2¾ per cent at michaelmas 1730, for that half year*.

A ſtatute was made this year for regulating the watermen on the river Thames.

A new act was this year made for the better preſervation of his majeſty's woods in America, and for the encouragement of the importation of naval ſtores from thence; and to encourage the importation

* The account inſerted by Mr. Allardyce in the appendix to his *Addreſs to the proprietors of the bank*, dates the reduction of the bank's dividend from *nine* to *ſix* per cent per annum in March 1730, and the further reduction to *five and a half* in September of the ſame year. And in the two following years (1731 and 1732) he alſo ſtates the March dividend at *ſix*, and the September one at *five and a half*, per cent per annum; at which later rate it continued till March 1747. *M.*

of masts, yards, and bowsprits, from Scotland; which, after reciting a former statute for this purpose, enacts, 'that from the 29th of September 1729, no person in the colonies of Nova-Scotia, New-Hampshire, the province of Maine, Massachuset's-bay, Rhode-island, and Providence-plantation, the Naraganset-country, or King's-province, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, or any other province in America, now belonging, or that shall hereafter belong, to the crown of Great Britain, shall presume to cut, fell, or destroy, any white pine trees, fit for masting the royal navy; (except only such as are the property of private persons) notwithstanding the said trees do or may grow within the limits of any township laid out, or to be laid out hereafter, without his majesty's royal licence first obtained. And whereas King William and Queen Mary's charter, in the third year of their reign, granted to the province of the Massachuset's-bay, reserved to themselves and successors all trees of the diameter of 24 inches and upwards at 12 inches from the ground, growing in that province, on any ground not before granted to any private persons; in order, therefor, to make that reservation more effectual, it was now enacted, that no person within the said province shall so cut or destroy any such white pine trees, on any land not granted to private persons before the 7th of October 1690; under the penalties of the act of the 8th of George I. And new and more moderate premiums are granted for the masts, yards, bowsprits, good tar, pitch, and turpentine, produced in, and imported from, America: and such naval stores imported shall repay those premiums when re-exported. A premium is also enacted for the importation of masts, yards, and bowsprits, from Scotland; where' (as this act sets forth) 'there are in sundry parts great store of pine and fir trees:' but so very difficult to bring down to seaports, as has rendered that part of this act, and of that of the 8th of King George I, hitherto ineffectual *.

1729.—This year the king of Denmark gave the new Danish East-India company a grant of an exclusive trade for forty years. His charter gives the royal sanction to the regulations made by that company in the preceding year, and promises that their stock shall be exempted from duties, and also that the stock belonging to foreigners, though subjects of states with whom he may be at war, shall not be seized on any pretence whatever.

At length, in November 1729, was concluded the famous treaty of Seville, between Great Britain, France, and Spain, for peace, union, friendship, and mutual defence, whereby they mutually guarantee each other's dominions, and all the rights and privileges of their commerce, in all parts of the world: each potentate for this end to furnish

* If they cannot be carried as masts, they may be carried as boards. Wherever men can walk, they can carry boards. *M.*

8000 foot and 4000 horſe; or ſhips of war, and tranſports, or elſe money inſtead of either.

III) The Britiſh and French courts having alleged, that in the treaty of Vienna, in the year 1275, there were divers clauſes which infringed the articles of ſeveral treaties of commerce, his catholic majeſty declares, that he never meant to grant, by virtue of the ſaid treaty, any privilege contrary to thoſe treaties.

IV, V) All neceſſary orders ſhall be diſpatched on both ſides for the execution of former treaties of commerce, both with the Engliſh and French nations.

VI, VII, VIII) Commiſſaries ſhall be appointed on all ſides, in four months time, to examine and decide what concerns the ſhips and effects taken at ſea, and the reſpective allegations relating to abuſes in commerce, as well in Europe as in America, who ſhall finiſh their commiſſion within three years, or ſooner if poſſible.

IX, X, XI, XII, XIII) Theſe articles relate to the introduction of Spaniſh garriſons into Leghorn, Porto-Ferraio, and Placentia, to ſecure the eventual ſucceſſion of Don Carlos to Tuſcany, Parma, and Placentia; all the contracting parties agreeing to guarantee his ſucceſſion.

XIV) The ſtates-general of the United provinces are invited to accede to this treaty; as they ſoon after did in this ſame month and year.

By the two ſeparate articles of this treaty it was more expreſsly ſtipulated, for the greater exactneſs, that the treaties of peace and commerce at Utrecht, between Great Britain and Spain, in which are compriſed the treaty of 1667 and of 1715, as alſo the aſſiento contract of 1713, and its farther explanation in 1716, ſhall from this day, even during the examination by the commiſſaries, remain in their force and vigour; for which end the catholic king ſhall diſpatch his cedulas to his viceroys, &c. in America as well as in Europe, as ſhall alſo his Britannic majeſty to his governors, &c. for the releaſe of all ſhips and merchandize; and particularly the South-ſea company's ſhip Prince Frederick and her cargo ſhall be immediately reſtored.

The ſtates-general of the United provinces were to furniſh only 4000 foot and 1000 horſe; and the other allies were to guarantee the abolition of the Oſtend Eaſt-India company, &c.; and the catholic king engages, that entire ſatisfaction ſhall be given to the Dutch for their grievances, as well in the Weſt-Indies as in Europe, and to re-eſtabliſh their commerce, agreeable to former treaties: and, laſtly, to grant them all the commercial privileges enjoyed by the nations moſt favoured.

The South-ſea company's 23 ſhips this year went out on the whale fiſhery; and, one of them being loſt, the other 22 ſhips brought home $27\frac{1}{2}$ whales; which was ſtill a loſing trade; the company's net loſs by this ſingle year's trade, beſides wear and tear, being £6904 : 8 : 4.

This year the Dutch Eaſt-India company obtained of the ſtates-general a prolongation of their excluſive trade to India for 21 years beyond their preſent term: for which privilege they paid into the treaſury of the republic 3,600,000 gilders, (about L330,000 ſterling.) Their power, pomp, and wealth, in India, and more eſpecially in the iſland of Java, at this time equalled thoſe of ſome conſiderable monarchs.

In the province of Pennſylvania great improvements were conſtantly making in commerce, ſhipping, and agriculture; many ſhips and ſloops are built at Philadelphia, Newcaſtle, &c. which they moſtly diſpoſe of to our ſugar colonies, and the reſt they uſe in carrying their own product, conſiſting of caſk-ſtaves, lumber, pork, peas, flour, biſket, &c. in exchange for ſugar, rum, and Spaniſh money. Great numbers of German ſettlers are annually adding to the population of this already-populous province, as well as others from Britain and Ireland. The following is a liſt of people arrived there from Europe in this year.

Engliſh and Welſh paſſengers and ſervants, - -	267
Scottiſh ſervants - - - - -	43
Iriſh paſſengers and ſervants - - - -	1,155
Palatine paſſengers - - - -	243
And, in Newcaſtle government alone, there arrived this year, of paſſengers and ſervants, moſtly from Ireland, (by reaſon of rack-rents there, as it is ſaid) about - -	4,500
Total arrived in this year only - - - -	6,208

No marvel, then, that this province is in ſo thriving a ſtate; its conſtitution being moreover, ſo excellent, and the encouragement afforded to new comers, by abſolute freedom, liberty of conſcience, lenity of laws, gentle taxes, &c. ſuch as really to be a pattern for all other governments on the continent.

As party rage ran very high at this time, the friends of the miniſtry found themſelves obliged to prove, by facts, what was before generally known to be undoubtedly true, that Britain was then in a thriving condition.

By the low intereſt of money, thereby evidently demonſtrating a greater plenty of money than formerly.

This plenty of money has raiſed the price of lands, from 20 and 21 years, to 25, 26, and 27 years purchaſe. An evident proof that there are more perſons able and ready to purchaſe land than formerly.

Another clear evidence of our increaſed wealth in Britain, is, the great ſums of late expended in incloſing and improving lands, and in opening mines.

Jewels, plate, and other rich moveables, are much plentier than formerly.

The value of our woollen goods exported in ſix years, ending at chriſtmas 1727, exceeds the value of the ſix preceding years, by L475,000. And the like may be ſaid of the increaſe of our exportations of coals, lead, tin, and lead-ore.

There is the like increaſe of foreign goods exported, which in the three laſt years exceeded in value the three preceding years by L535,000.

Laſtly, there will be found an increaſe in the tonnage of the ſhipping of England in the laſt ſix years, beyond what it was in the preceding ſix years of 238,000 tons. All which, when taken together, are undoubted marks of increaſing wealth, and of the general balance of trade in our favour.

As for the only two objections hereunto, the courſe of exchange between us and Holland running to our diſadvantage, and our great paper-credit: the firſt is to be accounted for by Amſterdam being the center of exchanges to and from all parts of Europe, and particularly between Britain and Holland, and thence between us and moſt other nations. Conſequently the great ſums of intereſt in our public funds, chiefly remitted by way of Amſterdam, and foreigners frequently ſelling out of our funds, as the intereſt thereon becomes gradually lower. The great importations of corn in years of ſcarcity, from Dantzic, Hamburgh, and the Netherlands, which, in the ſingle year 1728, amounted to L800,000 paid for by the way of Holland. The balance we pay to the northern countries for our moſt neceſſary naval ſtores, &c. moſtly remitted by the way of Amſterdam. Theſe and ſuch reaſons may well account for the courſe of exchange running retrograde between us and Holland; which therefor cannot be a juſt or certain rule to determine the balance of trade, or whether the wealth of Britain be increaſing or decreaſing. Laſtly, the increaſe of paper-credit proves quite the contrary of what the objectors intend, ſince it is not the cauſe, but the demonſtrable effect and proof of national riches.

1730.—The Engliſh Eaſt-India company's term for the redemption of their capital, and of their excluſive trade, being near its expiration, (viz. on three year's notice from lady-day 1733) a powerful and ſtrenuous oppoſition to its renewal was now raiſed by certain merchants and gentlemen, who, foreſeeing that the company would apply to the legiſlature for a prolongation of their excluſive privileges, determined to be beforehand with them; and therefor, in February 1730 [N. S.] they preſented to the houſe of commons their petition and propoſals, wherein they offered to advance L3,200,000 to redeem the fund of the company, by 'five ſeveral payments, the laſt to be at lady-day 1733, to be allowed 'an intereſt of 4 per cent till that term, and only 2 per cent after it; 'provided,

'I) That they might be incorporated, and in all reſpects veſted with 'all the excluſive privileges and trade of that company: yet ſo as not to 'trade in one joint ſtock or in their corporate capacity; but that the trade 'ſhould be free and open to all his majeſty's ſubjects, who ſhould pay 'one per cent of the value of their exports to India, in conſideration of 'their taking out a licence from this propoſed corporation. Provided 'alſo,

'II) That this trade be ſolely carried on from the port of London. 'And

'III) That the propoſed company's term be thirty-one years, and to 'be redeemed on three years notice.

'IV) That, moreover, for enabling the propoſed corporation to de-'fray the expenſe of forts and ſettlements in India, as well as the pre-'ſervation and enlargement of the trade, they may be empowered to 'levy a duty of 5 per cent on the groſs value of all the merchandize 'which ſhall be imported from India.'

The benefits to the public by this propoſal they ſet forth, in brief, to be,

'I) That by receiving but 2 per cent intereſt, an annuity of L92,000 'would be added to the ſinking fund, which, at 25 years purchaſe, was 'worth L2,500,000 to the public.

'II) That, as laying open the trade to Africa is agreed to be attend-'ed with great national advantages, ſo thus laying open the trade to 'Eaſt-India (or reducing it into a kind of regulated company) will be 'attended with the following advantages, viz. it will neceſſarily occaſion 'a larger exportation of our own product and manufactures to India.

'III) It will employ a much greater number of ſhips and ſeamen.

'IV) It will greatly lower the prices of all Eaſt-India commodities 'conſumed at home.

'V) It will enable us to ſupply foreign markets, cheaper and in greater 'quantities, with Indian merchandize; whereby ſome new branches of 'traffic may be gained and others preſerved, more eſpecially in Africa 'and America, and alſo in ſome parts of Europe *.

'VI) It will neceſſarily advance the cuſtoms and exciſe, and thereby 'leſſen the national debt, &c.

'VIII) They allege,' (but give no particular reaſon for ſuch their al-legation) 'that great advantages may accrue by employing our ſhip-'ping in freights, from one part of India to another, more than the 'preſent company has ever been able to do.

'IX) It will prevent perſons, acquainted with the trade to India, 'from being under the neceſſity, for want of employment here, of

* Here the propoſers ſhould have been more explicit. *A.*

' ſeeking it in foreign nations, and even will bring home thoſe who ' are already engaged that way.' *

Theſe were the plauſible and principal arguments made uſe of to the legiſlature; and they were more abundantly amplified and improved in printed pamphlets and newſpapers, which carried them, as is uſually the caſe, much beyond rational probability.

Their inducements for alluring ſubſcribers to this ſcheme, were,

I) Certain intereſt from the public, of 4 per cent for the firſt two years, and 2 per cent afterwards.

II) The additional annual profit ariſing from the propoſed licences.

III) The 5 per cent on all goods imported would bring a conſiderable ſurplus over and above the expenſe of ſupporting the forts and factories, ſince (as they alleged) the preſent company's forts and ſettlements do, one with another, more than anſwer their own expenſe. And even though the propoſed company ſhould be obliged to pay the preſent company a ſum of money for their forts and ſettlements; † yet in a few years there would a farther annual profit accrue, ariſing from the duties. For,

IV) Even ſuppoſing the trade, under this propoſed company, ſhould not increaſe, (as however they were confident it would) beyond the amount of three millions yearly, at the public ſales; yet 5 per cent thereon would yield L150,000 per annum, which makes L86,000 more than will complete the annuity or intereſt of 4 per cent. Wherefor,

V) It may be concluded, that the annual dividend will not at any time be leſs than 5 to 6 per cent to the ſubſcribers; ſince, as the exportations and importations ſhall increaſe, in like proportion will the dividends neceſſarily increaſe.

Yet, notwithſtanding all theſe plauſible reaſonings without doors, and all that their friends could urge within doors, the houſe of commons rejected their petition, becauſe, it was certainly, at leaſt, hazardous to turn the Eaſt-India trade into a new channel; it was uncertain, whether the propoſed ſubſcription would readily fill in due time, or whether their flattering expectations would anſwer, either with reſpect to the ſubſcribers, or to the nation; or whether the cuſtoms might not be diminiſhed inſtead of being increaſed; or whether by the new method of a regulated trade, the nation's general commerce to India might not in ſome degree be hurt and diminiſhed? For who can foreſee all the advantages which other European nations, trading to India, would be able to gain over us by this alteration, or the hurt our trade might receive from the Indian princes, &c. To quit therefor a preſent certainty for a fu-

* This refers to thoſe, who were engaged in the Oſtend and Swediſh Eaſt-India companies. *A.*

† Could the propoſers make any doubt, whether they were to pay the former company for their property? *A.*

ture (though plauſible) uncertainty, was not judged ſafe nor prudent. The oppoſition, however, drew from the preſent company very conſiderable advantages to the public, by occaſioning them to give up one per cent of the intereſt payable on their capital of L3,200,000, and moreover to pay for the benefit of the public L200,000 for the ſervice of the current year, over and above the abatement of their intereſt from 5 to 4 per cent, or from L160,000 to L128,000 per annum, whereby L32,000 per annum would be immediately added to the ſinking fund, which the company nevertheleſs were legally entitled to for ſix years longer. While the bill was depending in parliament, abundance of anonymous letters and eſſays were publiſhed in pamphlets and newſpapers, againſt excluſive companies in general, and more eſpecially againſt this company's excluſive trade, in particular: all the arguments which had been advanced for above 100 years paſt, (of which we have largely treated in this work) againſt monopolies in this and other mercantile companies, being on this occaſion republiſhed, with ſome few new improvements. 'They were for having the government to take the ſupport of 'the forts, factories, embaſſies, &c. in India, into their own hands, out 'of the large cuſtoms on the India trade, which ſhould thenceforth re'main free and open to all Britiſh ſubjects. For' (ſay they) 'the more 'free and open that trade is, the more profitable it will be to the na'tion. And though it may be true, that laying the Eaſt-India trade 'open, would leſſen the profit of individuals in that trade, by their 'ſtriving to outdo and underſell one another; yet the gain to the na'tion would' (in their opinion) 'be vaſtly greater, as the emulous pri'vate adventurers, by thruſting themſelves into new ports and coun'tries, in Arabia, Perſia, India, China, &c. would undoubtedly occaſion 'the exportation of much more of our manufactures and product than 'the company can do. And on the other hand, a joint-ſtock company 'can never trade ſo frugally and advantageouſly, either for themſelves 'or for the nation, being in fact but one buyer and one ſeller; who, 'moreover, manage their trade with a pride and expenſe more becoming 'the ſtate of kings than of merchants; and their governors and agents 'in India live like princes *. They alſo expect to be followed by the 'markets, and therefor do not ſtir from their warehouſes. Whereas, 'on the contrary, private traders would follow the markets, would puſh 'into every creek and corner, and would narrowly look into the con'duct of their agents in India. That the abolition of the preſent com'pany would, moreover, deſtroy the pernicious practice of ſtock-jobbing, 'ſo fatal to perſons and families. That when almoſt all the maritime 'nations of Europe are now running into this trade, which will doubtleſs 'diminiſh our own commerce thither, it ſeems the moſt effectual means

* And ſo they would doubtleſs do under a regulated company, or if they were under the king's immediate authority, being at ſo great a diſtance from Europe. A.

' for driving them out of this trade to lay it open to all our people.' Theſe, and many other arguments, (ſome of which were at leaſt inconcluſive, if not fallacious) were keenly urged, both within and without doors, and were ſupported by many eminent merchants. Laſtly, for farther corroborating the oppoſition to the bill for prolonging the Eaſt-India company's privileges, three ſeveral petitions were preſented to the houſe of commons; the firſt from the merchants, traders, &c. of London, in behalf of themſelves and all other his majeſty's ſubjects; the ſecond from thoſe of Briſtol; and the third from thoſe of Liverpool: all to the ſame effect, viz, againſt confirming the excluſive trade to India to the preſent company alone: and, for obliging that company to grant licences to the reſt of his majeſty's ſubjects to trade thither, under proper terms and conditions: alſo praying to be heard by their counſel at the bar of the houſe, againſt paſſing the bill: which petitions were all rejected.

On the other hand, it is but juſtice to the preſent Eaſt-India company, to exhibit the principal points urged by them in their own behalf, viz.

At preſent it ſeems to be agreed on all ſides, that the Eaſt-India trade is a beneficial one to this nation, and conſequently is neceſſary to be preſerved. But the main queſtion is, which is the beſt method to preſerve it to us, viz. whether by a company veſted with excluſive privileges and regulations, ſuch as the legiſlature ſhall from time time to direct; or, whether the trade ſhall be left quite open to every adventurer, who ſhall pay for a licence from this company?

It is but too probable, that the preſent great oppoſition to the company proceeds, in a great meaſure, from the great gains which they make: for their enemies are forced to go back almoſt forty years to ſearch out former miſmanagements; having nothing to allege againſt their preſent conduct.

The company at preſent employ a vaſt ſtock in trade, their ſales amounting to about three millions yearly. And the cuſtoms accruing to the public are prodigiouſly great, and anſwer the appropriations made of them by parliament better than moſt other duties; they bringing in net money, clear of all drawbacks and debentures, three hundred thouſand pounds yearly. Would it then be prudent in the legiſlature to let thoſe cuſtoms fall without a certainty of at leaſt as much in the room of them?

The forts and factories at preſent coſt the company L300,000 yearly; and doubtleſs the government could not maintain them for ſo little. Thoſe forts and other buildings are unqueſtionably the property of the company, who actually purchaſed them of the old company, and are of very great value. Who, then, ſhall ſet an equitable price on them? What certainty have the government, when they are in their hands, that

the propoſed open trade will be always ſufficient to maintain ſo va ſt an expenſe of cuſtoms and forts as L600,000 yearly? For, as every man is, by the propoſed ſcheme, left at liberty, (and will doubtleſs make uſe of it) to trade or not to trade thither, as it may ſuit his intereſt, it may happen, that one year there may go fifty ſhips for India, and another year perhaps not five. And theſe being all ſeparate traders, the government can have no certainty nor ſecurity from them, nor indeed from any other but an incorporated body, who have a great deal to loſe, and who are able to bear the ill fortune of ſome particular years trading, without preſently laying it aſide.

By the competition of the ſeparate traders in India, for the ſake of diſpatch, the prices of goods there would be raiſed ſo high, as at length not to be worth buying. And, for the like reaſon, at home they would ſo underſell each other, till the goods would not be worth ſelling; which was the caſe for the ſmall time that the two companies (the old and the new ones) and the ſeparate traders contended againſt each other; whereby they all did very much hurt to the trade.

An united company will always be more diligent to watch the encroachments and attempts of other European nations in India than ſeparate traders will or can be, whoſe views naturally are contracted within the narrow circle of their own private intereſt alone.

Though the company have a claim to a perpetuity in the trade by the act 10 *Ann. c.* 28, yet ſome doubts having ariſen reſpecting the certainty of their right, becauſe that act only repeals the proviſos in former acts, which directed that the privileges of trade ſhould ceaſe when the fund ſhould be redeemed, but does not explicitly enact a perpetuity of this trade to the company, in the ſame terms as the act of that ſame ſeſſion expreſsly does in favour of the South-ſea company; and the company, being unwilling that their title to the trade (however ſtrong) ſhould prove the occaſion of diſputes hereafter, they are therefor content to take up with a temporary certainty in lieu thereof, and moreover, to give the public almoſt L400,000 for the ſame, by giving L200,000 in money, and farther conſenting that their annuity of 5 per cent, which is not redeemable till the year 1736, be now reduced to 4 per cent; whereby they loſe an annuity of L32,000 for ſix years to come, valued L192,000 *.

Some other leſs important arguments were advanced on both ſides; but as there is in reality nothing new which can be hereafter advanced on this truely important ſubject, on either ſide, now and formerly ſo fully explained, we ſhall hereafter ſpare ourſelves the needleſs trouble of enlarging thereon, in any future controverſy concerning the Eaſt-India

* The value of this conceſſion is greater than is here ſtated by ſix years intereſt on the firſt defalcation of L32,000, five years on the ſecond, and ſo on of the others. *M.*

commerce; after aſſuring the reader, that the author of this work has ſtudied impartiality in this, as in other parts, of the work, as much as poſſible. To conclude, the legiſlature paſſed the bill in the company's favour, intitled, an Act for reducing the annuity or fund of the united Eaſt-India company, and for aſcertaining their right of trade to the Eaſt-Indies, and the continuance of their corporation for that purpoſe, upon the terms therein mentioned; whereby, after a full recital of former ſtatutes and charters, the company agrees, and it is enacted, that their preſent yearly fund of L160,000 be reduced to L128,000, (or from 5 to 4 per cent) from michaelmas 1730; in conſideration whereof, and of L200,000, to be paid by them for the public ſervice of this preſent year, 1730, all their excluſive privileges of trade to the Eaſt-Indies are continued and prolonged from lady-day 1736, to lady-day 1766, and three years notice then to be given; in all, including the ſaid three years notice, to lady-day 1769, being 33 years; when, on repayment of their entire capital of L3,200,000, their excluſive privileges of trade ſhall ceaſe and determine. Yet, nevertheleſs, the company ſhall continue as a corporation forever, to enjoy the Eaſt-India trade in common with all other ſubjects. There was in this act one ſingle clauſe only, of any importance, which had not been in any former ſtatute relating to this company, and aroſe from a doubt maliciouſly and unaccountably ſtarted by the company's enemies, viz. whether the three years notice ſhould be fully expired before they loſe their excluſive privileges. That clauſe therefore enacted, 'that upon the expiration of the ſaid three 'years, and re-payment, &c. as above, their excluſive right ſhall ceaſe.'

The company, moreover, at any time, on one year's notice after lady-day 1736, might be paid off their whole capital, by any payments not leſs than L500,000 at a time: and ſo on, from time to time, on ſuch yearly notices by parliament. The company were hereby likewiſe debarred from poſſeſſing in Great Britain, lands, tenements, &c. exceeding L10,000 yearly rent. Laſtly, two general proviſos were added, for ſaving the privileges, &c. of the South-ſea and Levant companies. In conſequence of the reduction of their fund, the company reduced their dividend from *eight* to *ſeven* per cent per annum at chriſtmas 1732.

The royal African company declining more and more, ſo as not to be able to ſupport their forts and factories on the coaſt of Africa, and the trade being thereby laid open, ſo as to endanger them, the parliament this year granted L10,000 for that purpoſe, by an act for raiſing L550,000 by exchequer-bills, &c. The ſum of L10,000 was granted annually till the year 1744, when, by reaſon of the war with France and Spain, L20,000 were granted for that end. In each of the two following years L10,000 were granted for the ſame purpoſe, but nothing was granted for the year 1747.

The ſouth-ſea company's remaining 22 Greenland ſhips brought home 12 whales this year; and their net loſs by this year's fiſhery was L8921 5/9, beſide wear and tear.

The French Eaſt-India company's trade by this time was become ſo conſiderable, that, inſtead of one ſhip from India once in two years, there arrived four ſhips from thence in this year.

Yet ſo much ſuperior was the Engliſh Eaſt-India company's trade, that, in the ſpring of this ſame year, there failed no fewer than 17 ſhips from India.

In the Britiſh American provinces of Pennſylvania, Virginia, and Maryland, there were about this time found mines of iron-ſtone, which they ſoon after learned to ſmelt down into pigs and ſows, and then to draw them out by flatting mills into bars. They have alſo found lead; and they had before found copper in New-York.

The South-ſea company's great ſhip the Prince Frederick, which had been long detained at La Vera Cruz, by the differences between Great Britain and Spain, arrived this year in the Thames with 400,000 dollars, or Spaniſh pieces of eight, in ſpecie, 190,000 lib. of cochineal *, 47,000 lib. weight of indigo, and 167 tons of logwood, beſides what came in private trade; ſuppoſed altogether to be worth L350,000 ſterling.

We may here, for once at leaſt, preſent our readers with a liſt of the chief exportations and importations for the ſingle month of May, in the year 1730, from London only, viz.

Exported.—Woollen cloths, long, ſhort, and Spaniſh,	5357	pieces
Bays, Colcheſter, &c. - -	6990	——
Stuffs, druggets, &c. - -	24,484	——
Perpets and ſerges, - -	4108	——
Dozens and kerſies, - -	1879	——
Hats, - - -	2028	dozens
Hoſe, - - -	9368	dozen pairs
Flannel and cotton, - -	53,053	yards

friſe, 7858 yards.—gartering, 774 groſs.—leather, 2290 cwt.—block tin, 1036 cwt.—wrought pewter, 499½ cwt.—lead, 184 fodder, each of 19

* Two phyſicians, to whom the author of this work ſhewed the cochineal in the company's vaults, were perfectly ſatisfied, that the inſect, which produces it, is the ſame with our Britiſh lady-bird; and that its ſuperior excellence was acquired purely by the inſect feeding on the fine red juice or ſap of the Mexico ſhrub called the prickly pear, agreeable to what had been aſſerted by divers authors. *A.*

The prickly pear is a plant which grows ſpontaneouſly and luxuriantly every where in the Weſt-Indies. Its juice is of a rich crimſon colour, which may be uſed with a pen or a pencil for writing or drawing; but it fades in a few days. However, Mr. Long [in his *Hiſt. of Jamaica*, *V.* iii, *p.* 731] ſays, that Mr. Riz, a gentleman of Kingſton, produced from it a dye-ſtuff ſuperior to the cochineal of Mexico. If that can be effected on a conſiderable ſcale, the prickly pear (now a nuiſance, or at beſt a bad ſort of fence) may become one of the moſt profitable of the tropical plants. *M.*

cwt.—ditto lead per cwt. 2746 cwt.—ditto in ſhot, 847 cwt.—alum, 1275 cwt.—copperas, 4033 cwt.—tobacco, 866,163 lib.—calicoes, 76,847 pieces—gold watches, 47—ſilver watches, 113.—wrought plate, 972 ounces. (Beſides 339,353 ounces of foreign ſilver, and 36,294 ounces of foreign gold.)

Imported in the port of London.—Wine in caſks (chiefly pipes or butts) 4299 caſks—ditto from Leghorn, 459 cheſts—wine Rheniſh, 1019 aums, each of 40 gallons—brandy from Dunkirk alone, beſides brandy from Holland, 24,687 gallons—rum from the Britiſh American colonies, 6327 gallons—ſugar from ditto, 1421 hogſheads—rice from Carolina only, 3025 hogſheads—Spaniſh wool, in bags, 1144 bags—indigo, chiefly from Spain and our own colonies, 57,784 lib.—hemp, from the Eaſt country, 1160 cwt.—thrown ſilk from Italy, 31,218 lib.—raw ſilk, 3441 lib.—coffee from Turkey only, 1781 cwt.—oil from Gallipoli only, 390 tons—Holland cloth, or fine linen from Holland, 66,286 ells—ditto from Hamburgh and Bremen, 1,232,209 ells—Iriſh linen, 179,114 yards—linen-yarn from Hamburgh, 73,450 lib.—coffee from Mocha, 5000 bales.

The whale fiſhery on the coaſt of New-England was proſperous this year; and the rice raiſed in Carolina (now a very thriving colony) appears to have increaſed; as by a clauſe in an act of parliament in the preceding ſeſſion [3 *Geo. II, c.* 29] for granting liberty to carry rice, &c. they were permitted to ſhip it to any place in Europe ſouth of Cape Finiſterre, without firſt being landed in England, or being made an enumerated commodity *, whereby the coaſts of Spain and Portugal in the Ocean, and of Spain and France in the Mediterranean, beſides Italy and the gulf of Venice, and all the Spaniſh and Portugueſe iſles, are open to them. Provided, however, that it be all carried in Britiſh ſhips, navigated as by the acts of navigation, and no other commodity be ſo carried but rice only.

The ſame privilege was extended to the rice of Georgia, by an act [8 *Geo. II, c.* 19.] And, in conſequence of theſe judicious indulgences, the Britiſh plantation rice has ſupplanted thoſe of Verona and Egypt, wherever they have come in competition.

On the 29th of May the king of France eſtabliſhed the following regulations for his royal council of commerce.

'That it be compoſed of the duke of Orleans, the cardinal de Fleury, '&c. and meet every 15 days, or oftener, as the king ſhall direct.

'The keeper of the ſeals, the ſecretaries of ſtate for foreign affairs, and 'for the marine, and the comptroller-general of the finances, ſhall make

* Rice was thought incapable of bearing the expenſe of being landed in a Britiſh port, and then reſhipped for a foreign market. *A.*

'reports in each of the principal matters relating to their reſpective de-
'partments.

'All their arrets and orders ſhall be ſigned by the chancellor and the
'other great officers.

'Reports ſhall be made to the king of any branch of commerce, either
'inland or foreign, that may require his conſideration and protection;
'together with the preſent ſtate of any manufacture, in order to perfect
'the ſame.'

The ſuburbs of London ſtill farther increaſing on every ſide, two other new pariſhes were in this year erected, viz. one called St. George in Bloomſbury, near the market of that name; and the other in the hamlet of Limehouſe, and called St. Anne at Limehouſe. Another new pariſh, named St. Paul's, was this ſame year erected in the town of Deptford, near, and almoſt joining to, the ſuburbs of London, the great increaſe of that town, by means of the dock, dock-yard, ſtorehouſes, &c. of the navy, occaſioning ſo great an acceſſion of workmen, trades-people, &c. that the old pariſh-church was too ſmall to contain the inhabitants of ſo large a town.

The great benefit of light-houſes to navigation is allowed by all men; and many ſuch are in Great Britain of long ſtanding. This year, a ſtatute was made, for confirming a patent granted by her late majeſty Queen Anne, to William Trench Eſq. deceaſed, for erecting a light-houſe upon the iſland or rock called Skerries, (near Holyhead, at the iſle of Angleſea, &c.) whereby the duties granted for maintaining it are made perpetual, it being a very great benefit to all ſhips and veſſels navigating the Iriſh or St. George's channel.

The czarina of Ruſſia reſumed the monopoly of tar, which had been a conſiderable branch of the revenue of Peter the Great. It was uſually ſhipped at Archangel, to the amount of about 40,000 laſts (of 11 barrels each) annually, being moſtly taken off by the Dutch and Hamburghers: and this trade ſtill brought many foreign ſhips to Archangel, after it was eclipſed by the new city of Peterſburgh, and though conſiderable quantities of tar are ſhipped at that city, and alſo, ſince the conqueſt of Livonia, at Riga, Revel, and Narva.

Ten Dutch Eaſt-India ſhips arriving at one time this year in Holland, it may be worth the noting how much ſpice of all kinds they brought home, viz. of

Brown pepper,	3,145,392	pound weight.
White pepper,	3,904	
Nutmegs,	94,918	
Mace,	65,604	
Cinnamon,	640,000	

Beſide 20,000 lb. weight of long pepper, 4623 lb. of cubebs or pepper duſt, and 6500 lb. of cardamums from Ceylon and Java.

The other principal parts of the cargo of thofe ten fhips were, 1,580,115 lb. weight of powder-fugar—1,450,000 lb. of faltpetre—90,000 lb. of tin from Siam—559,250 lb. of Sapan and Caliatour wood—6500 lb. of indigo—550 lb. of mother of pearl—130,000 lb. of cowries—306,000 lb. of coffee from Java, Ceylon, and Mocha—36,000 lb. of cotton-yarn from Tutucorin and Java—600 pieces of painted filk ftuffs—and 98,850 pieces of various denominations of calicoes.

This cargo will fhew the principal articles of the Dutch importations from India: but there came no fhips at this time from China; and no tea nor lacquered ware was imported, nor were there any cloves.

Great uneafinefs was expreffed at this time on account of the court of Spain delaying to fend the cedula or licence for the South-fea company's great fhip the Royal-Caroline, now loaded with a very rich cargo for the fair of Porto-Bello, the Spanifh galleons being already failed from Cadiz, left the fair fhould be over before our fhip fhould arrive there. That port and fair being appointed for the merchants of Chili, Peru, and all the weftern parts of South-America, to fupply themfelves with the merchandize of Europe, when the galleons arrive, couriers are difpatched to Panama, Lima, Cufco, St. Jago, and other parts, with notice of the time for holding the fair, to which the merchants refort in caravans with their treafure. It is thought, that the South-fea company cleared, altogether, about L70,000 by this voyage of the Royal-Caroline, almoft the only profperous voyage they ever made.

Great complaints were at this time made againft the fupercargoes and factors of the voyage in the South-fea fhip the Prince Frederick, juft returned from the Spanifh Weft-Indies, on account of malverfations in bottomree, clandeftine trade, &c. needlefs now to be farther enlarged on, fince the commerce of that company will probably never be revived.

This year four of our Engliſh China fhips arrived with 1,707,000 lb. weight of tea; the duty on which, at 4/ per pound, amounted to L341,000 fterling. Suppofing that one third of this tea was fairly exported by certificate, the duty of which is drawn back by debenture, then the net duty of the remainder was L227,600; an immenfe fum to be paid to the public for one fingle commodity. Moreover, only three of the company's fhips from Coaft and Bay this fame year brought home 371,000 pieces of the many and various kinds of calicoes and Indian filks, all to be re-exported. Alfo 73,000 great pounds of raw filk—682,000 lb. weight of faltpetre—93,000 lb. of pepper—192,000 lb. of redwood—2200 of cotton-yarn—16,800 lb. of fhellack—and 9000 lb. of ſticklack.

We have already, upon feveral occafions, treated of the various migrations of the great fholes of herrings in the feas of Europe; which at laft, fome centuries ago, fixed on the coafts of the Britifh iſlands. Yet,

as what has once been may hereafter be again, we ought not, therefor, to be greatly ſurpriſed if thoſe delicious fiſh ſhould again remove to ſome other coaſt. What at preſent has given occaſion for this remark is, the account given in the ſummer of this year by the herring-fiſhers, which, it ſeems, much ſurpriſed them, viz. that ſholes of herrings had come ſouthward near two months before their uſual time; particularly, in the ſea between England and Ireland, great quantities were taken in July, off the frith of Clyde, and off Londonderry, as far ſouth as the bays of Dublin and Wexford *. Had this humour of thoſe fiſh continued or increaſed in ſucceeding years, it might poſſibly have diminiſhed their numbers at Lewis and Shetland, which have been their ſtations for ſo many ages, and to which great numbers of Scottiſh and Dutch fiſhermen reſort for that fiſhery. Such an alteration in ſo great a branch of commerce would, doubtleſs, have occaſioned a conſiderable change in the commercial ſtate of ſeveral countries of Europe. But nothing extraordinary of that kind has ſince happened.

The Turkey company are ſaid to have ſhipped 10,000 pieces of broad cloth in four ſhips, in Auguſt, for the Levant; which demonſtrates the very great importance of that company's commerce to the nation.

In October this year we find the following remarkable importations of goods from the Engliſh American colonies, which being entirely new, and moſtly unexpected, productions in thoſe colonies, though not very conſiderable in themſelves, are well worth remarking, as a great increaſe of moſt part thereof has ſince fortunately happened, viz.

Two tons of iron from St. Chriſtophers, found in that part of the iſland which formerly was poſſeſſed by the French †.

Fifty hundred weight of hemp, raiſed in New-England and Carolina.

Seventy-two bags of wool, from, and produced in, the iſlands of Jamaica, St. Chriſtophers, &c. ‡.

Forty tons of iron; 30 hundred weight of copper ore; 156 quintals of bees-wax; 3 hundred weight of hemp; 3 hundred weight of raw ſilk; all produced in the province of Virginia.

The Hudſon's-bay company this year imported 11,040 coat and parchment beaver-ſkins; 4404 ditto of cubs; 3330 damaged and ſtage parchment; 990 ditto cubs; 1648 martins, and 3130 damaged ditto; 380

* Very oppoſite opinions have been held upon the curious ſubject of the migration of the herring. The reader, who wiſhes to examine them, may conſult *Dodd's Eſſay upon the herring, p.* 44.—*Anderſon's Account of the Hebrides (Weſtern iſlands), pp.* 346, 449—*Knox's View of the Britiſh empire, p.* 171—*American Philoſophical tranſactions, V.* ii, *p.* 236. *M.*

† I do not find iron a production of St. Chriſtophers by any account of that iſland. I think it muſt have been previouſly imported to it. *M.*

‡ Quere, if not cotton, uſually called cotton wool? If it was real wool, it muſt have been taken from northern ſheep carried to thoſe iſlands, or it muſt have been imported from ſome other country; for, it is well known, that in all tropical countries ſheep loſe their wool, and become as ſmooth as horſes, ſoon after their arrival. *M.*

otter-ſkins; 890 cat-ſkins; 260 fox-ſkins; 540 woolverins; 410 black bear-ſkins; 190 wolves-ſkins; and 30 wood-ſhocks. By this trade we now ſave much money, which we formerly ſent to Ruſſia, for theſe uſeful peltry, now entirely purchaſed with our own coarſe woollen and other manufactures and product.

We ſhall cloſe this year with a quotation from *Travels through a great part of Europe*, in this ſame year, by Keyſlar, (an author of credit and eſteem) in favour of our modern Engliſh ſilk fabrications, viz. 'In Italy 'itſelf, the ſilks of Engliſh manufacture are moſt eſteemed, and bear a 'greater price than thoſe of Italy: ſo that, at Naples, when a tradeſman 'would highly recommend his ſilk ſtockings, &c. he proteſts they are 'right Engliſh *.'

1731.—As the condition, importance, and value, of all the Britiſh, and ſome of the foreign, colonies in America were ſet in a much clearer light than poſſibly ever before, in a judicious tract, intitled the Importance of the Britiſh plantations in America to this kingdom, &c. conſidered, [114 *pp.* 8*vo*, *London* 1731] we think a ſhort abſtract of it, with ſome few remarks, will be uſeful.

If the iſland of Tobago juſtly belongs to this kingdom, (as he is informed it does) it is ſurpriſing it hath not been ſettled by us; ſince, though not quite ſo large as Barbados, it is ſuperior to it for good roads, convenient rivers, and richneſs of ſoil.

St. Lucia ſeems to be quite loſt to us. For ſince the French expelled Captain Uring in the year 1725, they are become more numerous there than before.

St. Vincent and Dominica are likewiſe poſſeſſed by the French; whoſe intercourſe with the Indians of both iſlands, (who generally ſpeak French, and who are taught by them to deſpiſe all other nations) and their quiet poſſeſſion of them, give the people of Martinico and Guadaloupe the pleaſing proſpect of ſeeing all of them ſettled and fortified by them. Theſe two iſles are ſcarcely inferior to Barbados in extent and fertility; and, in conveniency of roads and harbours, far ſuperior. They both lie between Granada and Martinico, the former of which is one of the oldeſt ſettlements the French have in that part, producing a vaſt quantity of ſugar, cotton, and cacao.

Dominica lies next to Martinico, and between that and Guadaloupe, Grandeterre, Marigalante, and Deſeada; all fine and large iſlands belonging to the French, whoſe increaſe in thoſe iſlands, within a few years paſt, is prodigious. So that we may reaſonably reckon, that they are not fewer in number of people than all the Engliſh Leeward iſlands, with Barbados included.

* The total value of the imports of England in the year 1730, was L.7,780,019, and of the exports (not including gold and bullion) L.8,548,982. [*Whitworth's State.*] *M.*

The Engliſh Leeward iſlands *, are Antigua, Nevis, St. Chriſtophers, and Montſerrat. Theſe four, together with Barbuda, Anguilla, Tortola, and Spaniſhtown, all ſettled on by the Engliſh, may be modeſtly conſidered altogether, as at leaſt equal in conſequence to us with Barbados, and are capable of vaſt improvements, which Barbados is not, but is rather declining and wearing out.

Euſtatia is poſſeſſed by the Dutch, and is about three leagues from St. Chriſtophers; and, though very inconſiderable in extent and produce, yet it drives a great ſmuggling trade with our iſlands by their ſhips from Africa underſelling our own people with their negroes. Saba, a little to the leeward, is alſo poſſeſſed by the Dutch, but is very inconſiderable.

A little more northward lie St. Martin and St. Bartholomew; both inconſiderable iſlands, and both partly inhabited by French, and partly by Dutch.

Santa Croce has been twice poſſeſſed by the Engliſh, who have as often been beat out by the French. It is not much leſs than Barbados, and inferior to none in point of healthfulneſs, fertility, good roads, and bays. Yet at preſent it is not ſettled.

Northward lies the iſland of St. Thomas, poſſeſſed by the Danes; remarkable only for its harbour, which is a free port, and for ſmuggling.

Due weſt from St. Thomas lies St. John de Porto Rico, inhabited by very few Spaniards, chiefly a lawleſs ſort of people. This iſland, though inferior to none in point of fertility, has nevertheleſs been much neglected by Spain.

Hiſpaniola is divided between the French and Spaniards. The former greatly thriving and multiplying, the Spaniards dayly decreaſing, many of their fine old houſes and plantations being left deſolate; inſomuch, that the French are reckoned to be double the number of the Spaniards in that large iſland, including the ſlaves of both, and to be already poſſeſſed of the greateſt part of it. The few Spaniards remaining there look upon the whole iſland as gone, upon the firſt rupture between the two crowns. The almoſt amazing improvements of the French here, ſince the reign of our King William, ſhew what great things may be done by able miniſters, even under an arbitrary prince. This iſland alone is of more value than all our poſſeſſions in thoſe parts, has excellent harbours, bays, and rivers; and, if we except Cuba †, far exceeds all the reſt of the Weſt-India iſlands.

* So called with reſpect to Barbados, which is to the eaſtward, or to *windward*, of all the Weſt-India iſlands. *A.*

This appellation of *Leeward iſlands*, which might be proper, when Barbados was the only Engliſh colony in the Weſt-Indies, is now becoming obſolete, and they are now more generally called *Windward iſlands* by us, as well as the French, they being in truth to windward of all the reſt, except Barbados. *M.*

† The Abbè Raynal's tables ſhew the produce of the French portion of Hiſpaniola to be above eighteen times the value of the produce of Cuba. *M.*

Thirty leagues weſt of Hiſpaniola lies our iſland of Jamaica in length 150, in breadth 50, miles; of the importance of which, we may partly judge from the quantity of its produce annually ſhipped off for us, viz. in ſugar alone, 10,000 tons. In cotton, indigo, ginger, pimento, rum, lime-juice, cacao, mahogany, &c, 2000 tons more. Thus, not leſs than 12,000 tons of our own ſhipping are conſtantly employed in that ſervice only; over and above what is employed between Jamaica and the northern continental colonies. Great are the advantages accruing to Britain from the trade between Jamaica and the Spaniards of Mexico, &c. the riſe whereof ſprung from the treaty of 1670, (called the American treaty,) whereby peace was firſt ſettled between the two nations in America; and till the commencement of Queen Anne's war that trade was carried on with little interruption, to the value of near £300,000 yearly, in various European merchandize, negroes, proviſions, &c. for all which our people were paid in good pieces of eight.

Jamaica, however, afterwards regained much of that clandeſtine trade; by which, and by their privateers, and the money ſpent by the ſhips of war ſtationed in thoſe ſeas, they became rich and populous, till after the South-ſea company's aſſiento factors ſettled there; when again much of their illicit trade was loſt *.

Much of that clandeſtine trade removed to the Dutch iſle of Curaçoa, from thence grown up to be very conſiderable in commerce and ſhipping, though of itſelf a mere barren ſpot, with only a commodious harbour, and an happy ſituation in reſpect to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies. It is ſupplied with proviſions from the two neighbouring Dutch iſles of Aruba and Bonaire; and, though yielding nothing of itſelf, is yet a market for all things, there having been ſometimes ſeen in its harbour 60 or 70 ſail of ſhips together.

Cuba is to the Spaniards the moſt important by its ſituation of any iſland they have in all America. It is about 700 miles in length, and 120 miles in breadth in ſome parts. It has an excellent ſoil, infinite numbers of cattle, and fine tobacco; great quantities of aromatic drugs and dye-ſtuffs. It has alſo fine bays and havens. What renders it ſo particularly beneficial to Spain, is its ſafe and well-fortified harbour and port called Havanna, being the rendezvous of all the Spaniſh fleets and ſhipping bound to Europe from any part of the coaſts of New-Spain, &c. to the weſtward or leeward of the Caracca's. Yet the Spaniards have been far from cultivating this fine iſland ſo well as might have been done.

Of the Bahama iſlands, though very numerous, and producing many things uſeful and neceſſary, and all claimed by the crown of Great Britain, only four are inhabited by Engliſh people, viz. Providence, the

* It was ſaid, with too much truth, that it was carried on by the others. A.

principal one; Eleutheria, Harbour-iſland, and Green-turtle-key. Yet for extent and goodneſs of ſoil, Abaco is the beſt, though not yet ſettled. And, to ſay the truth, were it not for preventing pirates from ſettling there *, none of theſe iſles would be worth keeping a governor, forts, and garriſons in them, conſidering how many finer-ſituated colonies we have ſtill to improve.

What our author ſays of Carolina by no means comes up to what we have elſewhere noted from very good authority; to which therefor we refer.

Virginia and Maryland are moſt valuable acquiſitions to Britain, as well for their great ſtaple commodity, tobacco, as for pitch, tar, furs, deer ſkins, walnut-tree planks, iron in pigs, and medicinal drugs. Both together ſend annually to Great Britain 60,000 hogſheads of tobacco, weighing, one with another, 600 pound weight, which, at $2\frac{1}{2}d$ per pound, comes to L375,000. And he thinks, the ſhipping employed to bring home their tobacco muſt be at leaſt 24,000 tons; which, at L10 per ton, is L240,000, the value of the ſhipping; the greateſt part thereof by far being Engliſh-built, continually and conſtantly fitted and repaired in England. The freight, at L1 : 10 per hogſhead (the loweſt), is L90,000; and the petty charges and commiſſion, on each hogſhead not leſs than L1, or L60,000; which, making together L150,000, we undoubtedly receive from thoſe two provinces upon tobacco only. The net proceeds of the tobacco may be L225,000, on which there may be about 5 per cent commiſſion and petty charges, being L11,250. There is alſo imported in the tobacco ſhips from thoſe two provinces, lumber †, to the value of L15,000, two thirds whereof is clear gain, it not coſting L4000 in that country, firſt coſt in goods; and, as it is the maſter's privilege, there is no freight paid for it. Skins and furs about L6000 value; L4000 of which is actual gain to England. So the whole gain to England amounts to about L180,000 annually: and moreover, the whole produce of theſe two provinces is paid for in goods.

Thoſe two provinces moreover produce excellent flax; alſo wool, equal to our beſt Engliſh wool; of both which they have manufactures: and what they do not manufacture themſelves, they exchange with the Pennſylvanians for rum, ſugar, melaſſes, ſalt, &c. This author had ſeen two very promiſing iron works, one in Virginia, the other in Maryland; both of them cloſe to water carriage, as well as to the woods. So that, if they have not leave to import their iron duty-free, they muſt manufacture it for themſelves, which will in time leſſen the exportation of our iron wares.

* He might have added, *other European nations*, ſeveral of whom would ſettle there, if not prevented by our ſuperior naval power. *A.*

† Boards and timber for building, cypreſs wood, ſhingles, ſtaves, heading and hoops for caſks, maſts, and other ſpars, and ſhip timber, paſs in America under the general name of *lumber*. *A.*

The trade of theſe two provinces to all other parts than Great Britain is inconſiderable: not employing above 1000 tons of ſhipping to the ſugar iſlands, and in all other trades on their own proper account. Yet a great number of veſſels reſort to both provinces, of and from our other continental colonies.

That Pennſylvania, which has not any peculiar ſtaple (like Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland) and was begun to be planted ſo late as 1680, ſhould at preſent have more white inhabitants in it than all Virginia, Maryland, and both the Carolinas, is extremely remarkable: and, though the youngeſt colony on the continent *, they have by far the fineſt capital city of all Britiſh America, and the ſecond in magnitude. The cauſes uſually aſſigned for this vaſt increaſe of white people there, in ſo ſhort a time, are, 1ſt, Their kind treatment of the Indians their neighbours, whereby the province is abſolutely ſafe from their attempts. Some indeed have gone ſo far as to aſſert, that they are the only Britiſh colony that have treated the poor native Indians with humanity: for that no other Britiſh province admits of the evidence of an Indian againſt a white man: nor are the complaints of Indians againſt white men duely regarded in other colonies, whereby thoſe poor people endure the moſt cruel treatment from the very worſt of our own people, without hope of redreſs: and all the Indian wars in our colonies were occaſioned by ſuch means. 2dly, The excellency of the laws; whereby property is effectually ſecured to all the inhabitants. 3dly, The unlimited toleration for all manner of religious perſuaſions, without permitting any claims to eccleſiaſtical power to take place. All men who are proteſtants are indifferently eligible to the magiſtracy and legiſlature, let their private opinions be what they will, without any religious teſt.

The product of Pennſylvania for exportation is, wheat, flour, biſcuit, barrelled beef and pork, bacon, hams, butter, cheeſe, cyder, apples, ſoap, myrtle-wax candles, ſtarch, hair-powder, tanned leather, bees'-wax, tallow candles, ſtrong beer, lint-ſeed oil, ſtrong waters, deer ſkins, and other peltry; hemp, which they have encouraged by an additional bounty of $1\frac{1}{2}d$ per pound weight, over and above what is allowed by act of parliament; ſome little tobacco, lumber, and drugs of various ſorts, as ſaſſafras, calamus aromaticus, ſnake-root. Laſtly, the Pennſylvanians build about 2000 tons of ſhipping yearly for ſale, over and above what they employ in their own trade, which may be about 6000 tons more. They ſend great quantities of corn to Portugal and Spain, frequently ſelling the ſhip as well as cargo; and the produce of both is ſent thence to England, where it is always laid out in goods, and ſent home to Pennſylvania. They receive from 4000 to 6000 piſtoles from the Dutch iſland of Curaçoa alone for proviſions and liquors. And

* Georgia was not then ſettled. *A.*

they trade to Surinam in the like manner, and to the French part of Hiſpaniola, as alſo to the other French ſugar iſlands, whence they bring back melaſſes, and alſo ſome money. From Jamaica they ſometimes return with all money and no goods, becauſe the rum and melaſſes are ſo dear there. And all the money they can get from all parts, as alſo ſugar, rice, tar, pitch, &c. is brought to England to pay for the manufactures, &c. they carry home from us; which have not for many years paſt been leſs than L150,000 per annum. They trade to our provinces of New-England, Virginia, Maryland, and Carolina, and to all the iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, except the Spaniſh ones, as alſo to the Canaries, Madeira, and the Azores; likewiſe to Newfoundland, for fiſh, which they carry to Spain, Portugal, and up the Mediterranean, and remit the money to England, which, one way or other, may amount to L60,000 yearly; but, without their trade to the French and Dutch colonies in the Weſt-Indies, they could not remit ſo much to England: neither could they carry on their trade with the Indians, if they did not take off the rum and melaſſes, as well as the ſugars of thoſe colonies, in part of payment of the cargoes they carry thither.

New-York and the two Jerſeys have the ſame commodities as Pennſylvania has for exportation, except they do not build ſo many ſhips. New-York alſo has lately found in her bowels the richeſt copper mine that perhaps was ever heard of; great quantities of which have been lately brought to England. This, and the iron mines of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennſylvania, might be brought to ſupply Great Britain and Ireland with all we want of thoſe metals; which, too, would be paid for with our own manufactures, inſtead of paying L300,000 of our caſh for thoſe metals to Sweden, &c. New-York, it is true, ſends fewer ſhips to England than ſome other colonies do, but thoſe they do ſend are richer, as dealing more in furs and ſkins with the Indians; and they are at leaſt of equal advantage to us with Pennſylvania, both as to the money they ſend us, and the manufactures they take of us. The city of New-York is a moſt delightful place, and has near as many inhabitants as Philadelphia has; and its country is one of the pleaſanteſt in the univerſe.

The ſoil of New-England is not unlike that of Great Britain. It has at leaſt 120,000 white inhabitants *, employing about 40,000 tons of ſhipping in their foreign and coaſting trades, and above 600 ſail of ſhips, ſloops, &c. about one half of which ſhipping trades to Europe. Their fiſheries have been reckoned annually to produce 230,000 quintals of dried fiſh, which, being ſent to Portugal, Spain, and up the Mediterranean, yield 12s per quintal, being 138,000 ſterling. And as their ſalt, rum, and melaſſes, as alſo their proviſions and utenſils, are purchaſed for the refuſe fiſh, which is not fit for the European market, and for the

* He means here only Maſſachuſets-bay. *A.*

oil made from the fiſh, the whole ſum may be ſaid to be gained out of the ſea. By this fiſhery, and their other commerce, they are ſaid to employ at leaſt 6000 ſeamen: and adding to the above ſum the freight and commiſſion, all earned by our own people, and reckoned at one third more, the whole will be L172,500, all remitted to Great Britain. There is, moreover, their whale fiſhery, employing about 1300 tons of ſhipping. To Europe, alſo, and to the Weſt-Indies, they ſend great quantities of lumber of all ſorts, and of proviſions, the ſame as mentioned under the head of Pennſylvania, the produce whereof is likewiſe remitted to England. They alſo trade to the bay of Honduras for logwood. And as they build ſhipping very cheap, they can afford to ſell their lumber, &c. to our ſugar colonies at a lower rate than any other people can. Many of thoſe New-England ſhips are loaded from the ſugar iſlands directly for England. From New-England, alſo, we have the largeſt maſts in the world for our navy. From thence, alſo, as from our other continental colonies, we receive all the gold and ſilver that they can ſpare, none of which ever returns to them: for we give them in exchange all manner of wearing apparel, woollen, braſs, iron, and linen manufactures, Eaſt-India goods, &c. in all, to the value of L400,000 yearly.

Newfoundland, though very thinly inhabited by us, is nevertheleſs of vaſt benefit to us: we make, one year with another, about 200,000 quintals of fiſh there; which, at 12/ per quintal, comes to L120,000 ſterling; which may be reckoned all clear gain to this kingdom, the oil of the fiſh paying for ſalt, &c. As this gain is obtained by the mere labour of our people, and as the fiſhery is of great uſe in breeding able ſeamen, the natural ſtrength of this kingdom; as, moreover, we have from Newfoundland great quantities of peltry, i. e. the furs and ſkins of deer, fox, otter, ſeal, minx, and bear, with ſome beaver, we ought therefor greatly to prize Newfoundland.

The Hudſon's-bay trade employs generally three ſhips from London, carrying thither coarſe duffle cloth or blanketing, powder and ſhot, ſpirits, &c. and bringing home vaſt quantities of peltry of many kinds, bed-feathers, whale-fins, &c. And as that ſmall company makes a dividend of 8, or formerly 10, per cent on their capital of about L100,000, beſides the employment they give to our people in fitting out and loading thoſe ſhips, it may truely be ſaid to be an advantageous commerce, proportioned to its bulk.

The Bermuda iſlands were formerly eſteemed extremely fertile: but they ſeem now to be wearing out apace. In Queen Anne's war, they are ſaid to have had above 100 brigantines and ſloops, though now not above half that number. They take of us whatever neceſſaries they have occaſion for, and pay us in money, which they get by trading

among the ſugar iſles, &c. and alſo with chip hats for women, and whatever elſe they can procure.

Thus we have, in brief, a politico-commercial, and, in part, a natural, ſurvey of all our colonies, excepting Nova-Scotia, at that time, in effect, no colony at all; being moſt unaccountably neglected till of late years: and, though written thirty years ago, ſince which time many alterations and improvements have happened in all or moſt of thoſe colonies, of which we have elſewhere taken notice; yet the main foundation of their reſpective trades and productions being always the ſame, and many points relating thereto being treated ſo diſtinctly and methodically, as to give much light thereinto, more eſpecially to ſuch as are not practical merchants, we thought it well merited the room it has taken up. The author's concluſion is, 'that Great Britain gains one million ſterling by 'her American colonies, excluſive of what we gain by any trades for 'negroes, or for dry goods, with the Spaniards in the Weſt-Indies; and 'that, by our colonies alone, we maintain and employ at leaſt 18,000 'ſeamen and fiſhermen.' Nevertheleſs, we have, in ſeveral other parts of this work, made it plainly appear, that even this author's account of the benefits we receive from our American plantations is far from comprehending all the advantages we receive from thence.

This year the parliament (by act 4 *Geo. II, c.* 5) paid out of the ſinking fund one million of the South-ſea annuity ſtock from michaelmas 1731, which the proprietors divided among themſelves, at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

That company now ſent out their remaining 22 ſhips on the whale fiſhery, one of which was loſt, and the remaining 21 brought home 14 whales, which was far from being a ſaving voyage. At the company's dock there had at this time been invented a new ſort of gun for ſhooting with gunpowder the harpoons into the bodies of whales, at a greater diſtance than they could be thrown by hand; and the ſhips were accordingly provided with ſome of them, which were uſed both in this and the next year's fiſhery, with ſome ſucceſs. They were chiefly uſeful in calm weather, though ſcarcely practicable in blowing weather, which moſtly prevails in the Greenland ſeas. And though the foreign harpooners could not eaſily be brought to uſe them, as being out of their uſual method, yet in a ſhip fitted out by Mr. Elias Bird and partners, two years later, out of the three whales brought home, two were ſaid to be killed by that new-invented gun.

A company was now ſet on foot in Sweden for trading from Gottenburg to the Eaſt-Indies, by authority of the king of Sweden's grant to Henry Koning, a rich and intelligent merchant, with ſuch others as ſhould join him, excluſive of all others, for fifteen years, to all parts from beyond the Cape of Good Hope to Japan: but they were not to trade at any place, within thoſe limits, belonging to any other European

nation or ſtate, without their permiſſion; and they were to pay to the crown an hundred dahlers per laſt for every ſhip employed by them, and two dahlers more per laſt for port duties. Above a million of rix-dollars were preſently ſubſcribed, by Swedes and foreigners, into the ſtock of this new company, which may be ſaid to have partly ſprung out of the ruins of the Oſtend company; and many, or moſt, of its ſubſcribers and managers were for a long time foreigners and chiefly Britiſh ſubjects; the native Swedes being at firſt unacquainted with that trade: but by a ſubſequent treaty or agreement, concluded between the Swediſh court and our Engliſh Eaſt-India company, there were no Britiſh ſubjects, after a certain fixed term, to be employed in the ſervice of the Swediſh company.

The company have had their grant renewed, and continue annually to ſend one or two ſhips to China: but as there is not conſumption enough in Sweden for their cargoes, both this company and that of Denmark are ſaid to be very hurtful to our own and the Dutch Eaſt-India trade, by running in upon our widely-extended coaſts, tea, china-ware, ſilks, &c. and alſo by ſupplying foreign parts with ſuch Eaſt-India goods as we formerly ſent thither.

A law having been made in the 7th and 8th of King William III, prohibiting the landing of any goods in Ireland, of the growth or product of the Engliſh American plantations, unleſs they were firſt landed in England, and paid the duties there: and that law being conſtrued to extend to all kinds of American merchandize, as well unenumerated as enumerated, it was now explained ſo far in favour of Ireland, 'that 'all goods from America, not enumerated, might in like ſort be landed 'in Ireland, in Britiſh ſhips navigated agreeable to the navigation acts.' [4. *Geo. II, c.* 15.] This was doing no more than putting Ireland on a par with foreign countries in reſpect to ſuch unenumerated goods. The enumerated commodities at this time were ſugar, tobacco, cotton-wool, indigo, ginger, dying-woods, melaſſes, rice, furs, copper-ore, pitch, tar, turpentine, maſts, yards, and bowſprits, imported from, and the growth and product of, the Britiſh American plantations; all which muſt firſt be landed in Great Britain, except the rice of Carolina, which may be carried to any place ſouth of Cape Finiſterre.

In the ſame year an act of parliament ordained, that all pleadings in courts of juſtice in England, and in the court of exchequer in Scotland, ſhould be in the Engliſh language. The preamble declares, 'that 'many and great miſchiefs frequently happen to the ſubjects of this 'kingdom from the proceedings in courts of juſtice being in an un-'known language; thoſe who are ſummoned and impleaded having 'no knowlege or underſtanding of what is alleged for or againſt 'them in the pleadings of their lawyers and attorneys, who alſo uſe a 'character not legible to any but perſons practiſing the law. All

' pleadings therefor and writings muſt henceforth be in the Engliſh ' language (excepting in the court of admiralty) and not in Latin or ' French, and all deeds and other writings in a common legible hand ' and without abbreviations.' [4 *Geo. III, c.* 26.] Strange, that this was not enacted long before.

The ſecond penny, paid for penny-poſt letters and parcels, when carried beyond London, Weſtminſter, and Southwark, and their reſpective ſuburbs, and as far as within ten miles thereof, and not paſſing by the general poſt, and from thence tranſmitted by the penny-poſt, which had before been voluntarily paid by the perſons receiving them, was now legally confirmed; becauſe in many caſes the letter-carriers are obliged to travel on horſeback to places at a conſiderable diſtance from London. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 33.]

This ſame year the Daniſh or Norwegian colony, which was ſent to replant Old Greenland in the year 1721, returned home, the climate being found ſo cold, and the country ſo barren, that even Norwegians could not live in it. Yet it ſeems the clergyman, who went out with this colony, having converted about 600 of the native ſavages to the chriſtian religion, generouſly determined to remain with thoſe poor people for the benefit of their ſouls. *Rara avis in terris.*

At this time the ſtates-general of the United Netherlands had a diſpute with the court of Denmark, about renewing the tarif, which ſome years ago expired, for regulating the toll to be paid by Dutch ſhips paſſing through the Sound. There is a proverb in Holland, that the keys of the Sound are at Amſterdam. Yet thoſe keys (i. e. a ſtrong ſquadron of ſhips of war to be ſent annually to keep that paſſage open) being very coſtly as well as hazardous, it was amicably made up on the ſame terms as before, and as we and other nations pay. It ſeems evidently the true intereſt of the court of Denmark to act with great moderation towards the mercantile ſhipping of the ſeveral nations of Europe paſſing this Sound; ſeeing that any new and extravagant demands might unite ſo many powerful opponents as would be able to call in queſtion the very foundation on which that toll has ſtood, though for ſo many ages paſt.

The king of Portugal this year gave permiſſion for one ſhip to make only one voyage to Surat and the coaſt of Coromandel, and back to Portugal, excluſive of all others; for which end a company was eſtabliſhed, whoſe capital was limited to 600,000 cruſadoes: and the ſubſcribers were, ſome time after the return of the ſhip, to be paid back their principal and their dividend of the profits.

Hereupon the Britiſh conſul at Liſbon gave warning to all Britiſh ſubjects living in Portugal to avoid being any way concerned in this

voyage; as, by an act of parliament of the 9th year of King George I (particularly aimed at the Ostend East-India trade) such British subjects as should be concerned in foreign companies trading to the East-Indies should forfeit all their stock therein, and triple the value; and any of our king's subjects going to, or being found in, the East-Indies (other than those of our East-India company) were thereby declared guilty of an high crime and misdemeanor, &c. as has been shewn under the year 1723. And his warning had the desired effect.

During this year there were re-exported from the port of London alone, in only two of the enumerated commodities imported from the British American colonies, 15,787,155 lb. weight avoirdupois of tobacco; and 58,446 cwt. (of 112 pounds to the cwt.) or 6,545,952 lb. weight of sugar; which equally serves to demonstrate the vast benefit of our plantations to their mother country, and the vast foreign commerce of the city of London, the whole exports thereof in this one year consisting of no fewer than 105 articles, or different species, of merchandize; many of which were very considerable ones,—as in the woollen manufacture alone, 894 suits of apparel; 2216 pair of blankets; 3847 dozen of caps; 10,437 dozen of castors and felts; cloths long and short 4822; coverlids 385; flannel 48436 yards; garments 1577; haberdashery 827 cwt.; hose 7773 dozen; kersies and dozens 2319; perpets 1995; plains 9640 goads; rugs 713; stuffs and bays 38,915 pieces; besides vast quantities of wheat, beans, peas, and oats; bacon, biscuit, cheese, flour; East-India goods in vast quantities; iron, copper, and brass, ware, lead, and tin, tinned plates; linen, threads, and tapes, sail-cloth, &c.

And of London's imports there were 85 different species of merchandize, consisting of many sorts of drugs, spices, cotton, deer-skins, ivory, indigo, gums, goats-skins, iron, many kinds of dying-woods and oils, naval stores, rice, rum, turpentine, wine, wool, &c.

This year was concluded the famous treaty of Vienna, between the emperor Charles VI, the king of Great Britain, and the states-general of the United Netherlands, for a mutual guarantee of each others dominions; and in a most especial manner,

'I) For guaranteeing with all their forces the order of succession, 'which the emperor had established by a solemn act in the year 1713, 'and again confirmed in 1724, in favour of primogeniture for all his 'heirs of both sexes, so as that the eldest of either sex shall succeed to 'all the hereditary dominions of the house of Austria indivisibly for-'ever,' commonly called the pragmatic sanction.

II) For the Spanish infant Don Carlos eventually to succeed to the duchies of Tuscany, Parma, and Placentia. France afterwards agreed to this pragmatic sanction.

III) The emperor, by the 5th article of this treaty, engaged to cauſe all commerce and navigation to the Eaſt-Indies to ceaſe immediately and forever in the Auſtrian Netherlands, and in all the other countries which were formerly under the dominion of Spain, in the time of King Charles II *, in ſuch manner that neither the Oſtend company, nor any other ſhall at any time contravene this treaty. Excepting that the Oſtend company may ſend for once only, two ſhips to the Eaſt-Indies, which ſhall return to Oſtend, and there ſell their cargoes.

IV) But, by a ſeparate article, the guarantees before-ſpecified of each others dominions, in the 1ſt article of this treaty, are not to be extended to any diſturbance which the Turks may hereafter give to the dominions of the houſe of Auſtria. This laſt was a very proper exception in the two maritime powers to make; ſince otherwiſe they might have involved themſelves in war with the Ottoman porte, which would throw their Turkey trade entirely into France, which has already conſiderably enlarged her trade to the Levant. [*Collection of treaties, V.* iv, *ed.* 1733.]

The French, finding us not object to their fort at Niagara in the Iroquois country, now erected another at Crown-point, in the center of that country, and within the undoubted limits of New-York colony; and this fort, as well as another erected by them in the ſame country, named Ticonderoga, they held till both were taken by us in the year 1759.

The merchants trading to the Britiſh ſugar colonies, and the planters, repreſented to the houſe of commons, that the Britiſh continental colonies carried on a trade with the ſugar colonies of the French and Dutch, from whence they were ſupplied with ſugar, rum, melaſſes, &c. inſtead of thoſe of our own ſugar colonies, as well as with foreign European goods and manufactures, contrary to the tenor or intention of the laws in being, and of the treaty with France in the year 1686; and they alleged, that, as this new trade (firſt complained of in the year 1715) increaſed, and enriched the colonies of other nations, ſo it was injurious to the trade of this kingdom, and greatly impoveriſhed the Britiſh ſugar colonies; and therefor they prayed for relief therein. Thereupon a committee was appointed, upon whoſe report a bill was brought in, and paſſed the houſe of commons, for the better ſecuring and encouraging the trade of his majeſty's ſugar colonies. It was indeed dropped in the houſe of peers: yet, as being a ſubject of the greateſt conſequence to our American commerce and colonies, we ſhall exhibit an abſtract of that bill as it was ſent up to the houſe of peers, viz.

Section I) No ſugar, rum, or melaſſes, of the plantations of foreign

* This clauſe alſo reſpects his dominions in Italy and Sicily. *A.*

nations, ſhall be imported into Britain or Ireland, or any of the king's dominions in America, under forfeiture of lading, ſhip, and furniture.

II) Aiders, aſſiſters, and receivers, in landing any ſuch foreign ſugars, &c. to forfeit triple the value thereof.

III) The *onus probandi*, or proof that the ſugar, &c. ſo ſeized, was the product of the Britiſh plantations, ſhall lye on the proprietor of ſuch goods.

IV) Maſters of ſhips, taking in, at ſea, or in any creek, harbour, or other place, any ſuch foreign ſugar, &c. in order to be landed in Great Britain or Britiſh America, ſhall forfeit L200.

V, VI) The maſter of every ſhip loading ſugars, &c. at the Britiſh ſugar colonies, bound to any other part of the king's dominions, ſhall, before he ſails, deliver to the collector of the port a true account of his lading, and take of him a certificate thereof, with the merchant's name who ſhipped them, and of him to whom conſigned; and, when arrived at his intended port, ſhall take an oath and ſign a true manifeſt of his lading.

VII, VIII) And whereas great numbers of horſes, and great quantities of lumber have been exported from our continental colonies to the foreign ſugar colonies, whereby they are enabled more eaſily to carry on their ſugar plantations; none ſuch ſhall be tranſported hereafter to thoſe foreign colonies: and when any ſuch goods are to be ſhipped from the continental colonies, the maſter ſhall give a bond for L500, that they ſhall not be carried to any foreign ſugar colony, &c.

IX, X) Governors, cuſtom-houſe officers, &c. conniving at any fraudulent importation of foreign ſugars, &c. to forfeit L300.

XI) Nothing in this act ſhall extend to reſtrain the uſual importation of ſugars from the dominions of Portugal.

Let us next, as briefly as poſſible, hear the allegations on both ſides for and againſt this bill.

In ſupport of the bill, it was urged, both within doors and in ſundry pamphlets and newſpapers, that the northern coloniſts had ſupplied the French and Dutch ſugar colonies with ſhipping, proviſions, horſes, and lumber, ever ſince the peace of Utrecht, and that trade not only made thoſe neceſſary commodities cheaper to them than they could have them any where elſe, but alſo obliged the importers to take in payment great quantities of French and Dutch ſugars, rum, and melaſſes, to the infinite detriment of the Britiſh ſugar colonies; and, what is ſtill more grievous and detrimental to the public, that intercourſe affords our northern colonies an opportunity of being ſupplied with French European merchandize which are prohibited by law.

The quantity of ſugar now made in America being greater than Europe can conſume, it is of conſequence to us not to give foreigners a pre

ference for the vent of their own produce, in any part of his majeſty's dominions.

The French having power (by the above treaty) to ſeize on our ſhips trading to their colonies, it is manifeſt that it muſt either be for their advantage, or elſe from neceſſity, that they ſuffer it.

For the encouragement of our northern colonies to perſiſt in that trade, they have the rum and melaſſes from thoſe foreign colonies, without the high duties paid for them when imported into Britain. Melaſſes was formerly of little or no value to the French planter, (becauſe rum was detrimental to France as interfering with the conſumption of their brandy) until the French found they could ſell it to our coloniſts, in return for timber, horſes, oxen, and proviſions, ſo needful for them; whereby alſo they ſaved ſo much money in ſpecie; and even the money, which our northern coloniſts receive at our own ſugar iſlands in payment for their lumber, proviſions, horſes, &c. is now carried to the French ſugar iſlands for the purchaſe of their melaſſes and rum, near one half of the goods carried from North-America to our own ſugar iſlands, being now paid for in money, and not by barter, as formerly; whereby the French are enabled to increaſe their ſettlements, and alſo their negro trade.

This intercourſe, moreover, enhances the price of negroes to our own ſugar colonies, as well as of proviſions, lumber, &c. being a great diſcouragement to them, and more eſpecially to Jamaica and St. Chriſtophers, where there are large quantities of land for new ſettlements.

There are perſons ſtill living, who very well remember, that there were great quantities of proviſions and other requiſites for planting, ſent from England to our ſugar colonies, becauſe at that time our northern colonies were not able fully to ſupply them: whereas now the chief benefit, which the northern colonies yield to their mother country, is their being able to ſupply our ſugar colonies with thoſe neceſſaries much cheaper than they could have them elſewhere: and our northern colonies ſhould be reſtricted to that way of trading to our Weſt-India iſles, together with their fiſheries, and raiſing naval ſtores, flax, hemp, indigo, &c. allowing them, however, any other commerce to foreign countries, not detrimental to their mother country.

Whereas it is alleged by the northern coloniſts, that, if they were reſtrained from ſupplying the French ſugar iſles, they might be ſupplied with lumber, from their own continental ſettlements at Mobile, Penſacola, and Fort Louis, in the bay of Apalachy, whereby they would be encouraged to improve and people thoſe colonies, and that of Miſſiſippi, whence ſome ſhips have already begun to carry lumber to the French ſugar iſlands; and with lumber, proviſions, &c. from Canada. This the ſugar-iſland advocates abſolutely denied, ſaying, moreover, that thoſe French continental colonies could not take off their rum and melaſſes

in return; and that Canada is a barren country, and its river only navigable in the ſummer months.

Whereas formerly we ſupplied even France, as well as Holland, Germany, Italy, &c. with ſugars; it is chiefly by the above means that we are now almoſt ſolely confined to the home conſumption of Great Britain; being in a great meaſure excluded from Ireland, (by clandeſtine importations) and from our own American colonies, who, inſtead of carrying their product to our ſugar colonies, as formerly, now carry the ſame to our rivals, in exchange for their rum and melaſſes.

With reſpect to Barbados, in particular, they are at a great expenſe in their fortifications and their militia, without any charge to the crown; beſide the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in ſpecie, which they pay to the crown on all their exports, amounting to about L10,000 yearly. Moreover, Barbados employs conſtantly 1000 of our own ſeamen, and 10,000 tons of our ſhipping: and the kingdom gains annually from this ſmall iſland L95,000 ſterling. Whereas the French and Dutch pay much lower duties than Britiſh ſubjects do, both at home and in their plantations.

Of late the Dutch have extended their colonies at Surinam, Eſekebe, and Barbicies, (places on the continent, in the province of Guiana) making much greater quantities of ſugar, rum, and melaſſes, than formerly; a great part of which they ſell to our northern coloniſts in return for horſes, proviſions, and lumber.

Laſtly, it was aſſerted, that the produce of our ſugar iſlands may be eſtimated and valued at L1,500,000 per annum, which is ſo much additional wealth to Great Britain: and that the actual and direct annual gain ariſing, one way or other, to Great Britain, from our ſugar colonies, can be no leſs than 1,200,000 per annum; ariſing from the vaſt quantities of Britiſh manufactures conſumed by them, from the like manufactures and product ſent to the coaſt of Guinea for the purchaſe of negroes for the iſlands, from the accumulated freight of the ſhipping employed in thoſe two branches, the gain on the ſugars re-exported, the cuſtoms, the commiſſion, the victualling and refitting of the ſhips, &c. It was alſo alleged, that four fifths of all the gains of a ſugar plantation center in Great Britain, and the other fifth formerly centered in the northern colonies ſolely, but now one half of that fifth is taken away in caſh, and carried to the French plantations, to buy their ſugar, rum, and melaſſes.

On the other hand, the following arguments were urged in behalf of the Britiſh northern colonies, viz. New-England, Rhode-iſland, New-York, Pennſylvania, and the Jerſeys.

As all the ſugar, rum, and melaſſes, of our ſugar iſles are taken off at high prices by Great Britain and the northern colonies, it would be very impolitic to obſtruct the later from taking melaſſes, and even rum, from the French iſlands, for the ſupply of their Indian trade, and much more

of their fiſheries; ſeeing our own ſugar colonies are unable to ſupply the great quantity of melaſſes which thoſe two trades demand; more eſpecially as from the French iſlands they receive in payment ſilver and cacao, as well as melaſſes, (but ſeldom ſugar or rum) which ſilver comes ultimately to Great Britain to pay for the balance of trade: and the northern colonies diſtill the melaſſes into rum for the above purpoſes.

By this trade the northern colonies are enabled to make ſuch conſiderable remittances to England in ready money, as they could procure nowhere elſe but by their traffic with the foreign colonies, as well as by indigo, cacao, ſugar, and rum, both from Britiſh and foreign colonies; for enabling them to pay for the great quantities of our manufactures which they yearly take of us.

If the northern colonies were not permitted to ſupply the French iſlands with lumber, they could have them, though ſomewhat dearer, from their own colonies in the bay of Apalachy; and our horſes would be of little or no uſe, if not bought up by the French, who, beſides, could have them (as alſo mules) from the coaſts of New-Spain and New-Andaluſia, and from the Dutch iſland of Curaçoa.

The Britiſh ſugar iſles employ no ſhips but for their own ſugars and ſome few other commodities, and what aſſiſtance they afford to the negro trade: whereas, for every ſhip which they uſe, the northern colonies employ ten at leaſt, and not only uſe great quantities of Britiſh goods themſelves, but moreover ſupply the Indian nations behind them with vaſt quantities thereof, whereby they afford employment to a much greater number of hands in Great Britain than the ſugar iſlands can do.

The late great improvements in the Dutch and French ſugar colonies are owing to their induſtry and frugality on one hand, and, on the other, to the notorious luxury and extravagance of the people in our ſugar iſles, who, inſtead of endeavouring to regain their former trade by lowering their prices, would now gain it by force, by the help of an act of parliament compelling all the ſubjects of Great Britain, both at home and in America, to take off their merchandize on their own terms, for the ſupport of the luxury and extravagance for which they have been ſo long famous. The high prices of their ſugars have been the means of loſing their former European markets; and if they are to be raiſed ſtill higher, they will loſe all that is yet left; ſo that in the end the ſubjects of Great Britain alone muſt ſupport thoſe people in luxury and indolence. Barbados was formerly wont to trade with the French and Dutch, and, by taking off their ſugars, prevented their ſeeking for other markets, whereby the Barbadians gained the ſugar trade almoſt entirely into their own hands: but they loſt it again in the year 1715 by laying a duty on foreign ſugars, &c. too high to be ſupported.

The conſumption of rum in New-England is ſo great, that an author on this ſubject aſſerts, that there have been 20,000 hogſheads of French melaſſes manufactured into rum at Boſton in one year: and as every gallon of melaſſes will make a gallon of rum, this will amount to 1,260,000 gallons of rum in one year: ſo vaſt is the demand for that liquor by their fiſhery, and by the Indian trade. If then, the trade from New-England to the French iſlands was to be prohibited, how much would our American fiſhery and the Indian trade ſuffer for want of rum, ſeeing that all the rum from our own ſugar colonies is now entirely taken off by Great Britain and her colonies? And if our northern colonies ſhould buy up all the melaſſes and rum which our ſugar iſlands can make, then, not only the duty on rum imported into Britain and Ireland would be ſunk, which now produces a large ſum, but the French would bring their rum to the European markets, and would probably run it in upon us. About 40 years ago (i. e. about the year 1690) the melaſſes were entirely waſted in Jamaica, where they produced fine ſugars long before they made any rum, which they at length learned to make from the Barbadians, and now make it better than their teachers. At firſt our northern colonies took off all that they made; but when they came to excell in the goodneſs of it, ſo that they found it would anſwer better to ſend it to England, they raiſed the price ſo high, that now very little of it is taken from Jamaica by our northern colonies. In fine, if the northern colonies and Great Britain now actually take off all the ſugar, rum, and melaſſes, which our ſugar iſlands can poſſibly produce; and our northern colonies moreover take off ſuch vaſt quantities of rum and melaſſes from the French of Martinico, and likewiſe get a great deal from Surinam, Guadaloupe, Granada, Cape François, Cayenne, &c. ſhould all but our own ſugar, rum, and melaſſes, be abſolutly prohibited, many great inconveniences would follow; for 1ſt, we ſhould loſe the employment of ſeveral thouſand tons of ſhipping, in the trade between the northern colonies and thoſe foreign ſugar colonies: 2dly, the northern colonies could not poſſibly be ſupplied with near the quantity of rum and melaſſes which they need for carrying on their moſt profitable trades: 3dly, this would put a moſt dangerous monopoly into the hands of our own ſugar-planters, ſo that the Indian and fiſhery trades of our colonies could not afford to pay the rates which would be demanded, even ſuppoſing our iſlanders could make ſufficient quantities of thoſe goods for both the American and Britiſh conſumption: 4thly, it would greatly increaſe the French ſhipping and navigation, not only in bringing lumber, horſes, &c. to their own ſugar iſlands, but in carrying thence to Europe all their rum and melaſſes, where no doubt they would find markets for them, as they already do for their ſugars, by underſelling us in Holland, and at Hamburgh, Cadiz, &c.: 5thly, and if the complaint of the Barbadians be true, that their lands

are ſo worn out, that it requires the labour of three negroes to produce as much ſugar as could formerly be raiſed by the labour of one, they need but remove to Jamaica, where they may have excellent freſh land enough; and as the value of ſuch new land is a trifle, when compared to the value of the ſtock required for a ſugar plantation, which is the main article for eſtabliſhing ſuch a plantation, they have that entire to carry along with them to Jamaica; and the charge and trouble of their removing thither would be amply compenſated by the abundant product of thoſe new lands, and which conſequently would enable them to underſell the French and Dutch plantations, the only ſeeming means left for recovering the trade of the re-exportation of our ſugars: 6thly, from the foreign ſugar colonies our northern coloniſts bring back conſiderable quantities of gold and ſilver, along with their ſugar, rum, and melaſſes, whereby they are enabled to make payments for the vaſt quantities of product and manufactures, which they take of their mother country, and which, without this trade ſo much complained of, they could not poſſibly do. Laſtly, to prohibit the northern coloniſts from purchaſing of the foreign colonies their ſugar, rum, and melaſſes, or even to lay high duties on them, would utterly deſtroy a commerce, without which they cannot poſſibly carry on their fiſheries, their trade for peltry with the Indians, or their navigation. Neither could they diſpoſe of the product of their lands and labour, a great part of the profits whereof centers in Great Britain, in payment of the manufactures, &c. they have from thence. Upon the whole, the ſecret and real view of the ſugar iſlands is to gain the abſolute monopoly of ſugar and rum (with reſpect to the ſubjects of Great Britain) to themſelves; that ſo they may have it in their power to exact what prices they ſhall pleaſe from the buyers.

Notwithſtanding all theſe plauſible allegations on both ſides, in a matter of great importance to our commercial intereſts, there was nothing legally decided till the year 1733. And indeed, where ſuch material alterations are required to be made in a long-eſtabliſhed, or even connived, courſe of any important branch of commerce, great and ſerious deliberation, and mature obſervation and conſideration, ſeem abſolutely requiſite in a nation, whoſe principal ſupport depends ſo much on commerce and plantations.

1732.—By a ſtatute of the 5th year of King George II, [*c.* 17] one million of money was paid off the South-ſea company's capital ſtock, out of the ſinking fund, from midſummer 1732; but the company having a large bond debt, (occaſioned by the miſmanagements in the year 1720) their general court, inſtead of dividing the money to the proprietors, agreed to pay off one million of bonds therewith, whereby ſo much of their capital ſtock was annihilated, being $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, which was accordingly written off from each proprietor's account.

The manufacture of hats being long ſince brought to perfection in England, and great quantities thereof annually exported to foreign parts, and particularly to the Britiſh American plantations, till of late years, that great quantities of hats have been made in the northern plantations, and from thence exported to foreign markets, which were heretofore ſupplied therewith from Great Britain, for remedy thereof it was enacted, that no hats or felts whatever ſhould be exported from any of the plantations to foreign parts, nor be loaden on any horſe, cart, or other carriage, with that intent, under forfeiture thereof, and of L500 for every ſuch offence, and aiders or abettors therein forfeit L40, and cuſtom-houſe officers, permitting entries of ſuch hats to be made, forfeit their office and L500. None are permitted to make hats in the colonies, but ſuch as have ſerved an apprenticeſhip thereto of ſeven years; and no maſter to have at any time above two apprentices, nor employ any negro in that manufacture. [5 *Geo. II, c.* 22.] The conveniences, in point of cheapneſs, which the Americans have beyond their mother country, by the plenty of beaver, hare, coney-wool, and many other furs, gave them ſuch advantages, that had they not been thus reſtrained, they would ſoon have ſupplied all the world with hats. And as our people are continually increaſing in thoſe plantations, we can ſcarcely too often inculcate the opinion of knowing and intelligent men, that nothing will be able to prevent thoſe people from manufactures interfering with ours, but their being conſtantly employed in raiſing naval ſtores, and other rough materials for our own manufactures, ſuch as ſilk, flax, hemp, iron, &c. *

Conſiderable quantities of coffee being by this time produced in, and imported from, Jamaica into Britain, the legiſlature, for its encouragement in our Britiſh plantations, reduced the inland duty thereof coming from thence, (but of none other) from 2*ſ* to 1*ſ* 6 per lb. weight. [5 *Geo. II, c.* 24.] It ſeems that the French at Martinco, Hiſpaniola, and at the Iſle de Bourbon near Madagaſcar, had ſomewhat the ſtart of us in this new production, as had alſo the Dutch at Surinam; yet none ſuch as yet comes up to the coffee of Arabia, from whence all the reſt of the world originally had theirs. But in length of time, our people, as well as thoſe of other nations, may bring it to perfection, whereby our colonies will be the better enabled to take off more of our product and manufactures, while we ſhall ſave a great deal of the price we now pay for the coffee of the Eaſt.

The South-ſea company again ventured to ſend out their remaining 21 ſhips on the whale fiſhery. It was the laſt attempt they made for recovering to Great Britain that valuable branch of trade, as finding themſelves

* What did thoſe knowing and intelligent men propoſe that the Americans ſhould do, when their increaſed population ſhould produce more ſilk, flax, hemp, iron, &c. than could be ſold as rough materials? *M.*

to be very great loſers thereby. Thoſe ſhips brought home 24½ whales; which likewiſe proved a very loſing voyage.

And now that company, having ventured fully as far as (and many thought farther than) in prudence they ought to have done in the whale fiſhery, in conſideration of their having, for eight years together, been conſiderable loſers, thought it high time to lay it aſide entirely. Wherefor they ſold off all their ſhips, ſtores, and utenſils: and upon finally ſtating the accounts of this fiſhery, it appeared,

That their total diſburſements on account of the Greenland whale fiſhery in the eight years, amounted to -	L262,172	9	6
And the total amount of the ſale of their oil and whale-fins, as alſo of the ſale of all their ſhips, ſtores, and utenſils, was but - - - - -	84,390	6	6
So the net loſs ſuſtained by this Greenland fiſhery, in principal money alone, (without reckoning the intereſt on the money advanced in each of the eight years) was - - -	L177,782	3	0

It has been uſually computed, that, if a Greenland ſhip brought home but three whales, it would be a reaſonably-gainful voyage: but moſt unfortunately for the South-ſea company, they had not, in all the eight years fiſhery, brought home at the rate of one entire whale per ſhip, taking one year with another. It has, moreover, been a maxim among the whale-fiſhing adventurers, that one good fiſhing year in ſeven, uſually makes up the loſſes of ſix preceding bad years. But it was very unhappy that all thoſe eight years happened to be bad, not only to the company, but to moſt of the adventurers of other nations. It muſt, however, be allowed by all, that this company, by ſuſtaining ſo great a loſs in endeavouring to promote ſo national a benefit, has greatly merited the favour of the public; and, moreover, that, if this fiſhery could have been brought to be profitable to the company, it would moſt certainly have been a gainful one to the nation, as will plainly appear in the following reſpects, viz.

By ſaving great ſums of money ſent annually beyond ſea for the purchaſe of oil and whalebone, which we abſolutely cannot be without.

By building and employing ſo great a number of ſtout ſhips as probably this company would have employed, (perhaps ſo far as 100) had ſucceſs attended their fiſhery.

By the great number of good ſeamen, of whom this fiſhery is allowed to be an excellent nurſery; the company actually employing annually 950 to 1100, beſides thoſe employed at the dock in ſail-making and in the rope-yard, cooperage, &c.

By the number of ſhip-builders, coopers, rope-makers, ſail-makers, and labourers; and alſo the employment given to butchers, bakers, brewers, diſtillers, painters, ſmiths, turners, ſlop-ſellers, ſhip-chandlers, and all the other numerous trades depending on the outfit of ſhipping.

Laſtly, by the benefit accruing to the landed intereſt from the great quantity of proviſions of various kinds, conſumed by the men in thoſe ſhips, as well as to the public revenue by the exciſe and cuſtoms paid for liquors and many other things uſed in this trade.

Now, if from laying aſide this one ſmall branch of trade, ſo many perſons were diſmiſſed to the wide world, to ſhift for themſelves and families; and ſo many trades and occupations were to ſuffer a conſiderable diminution of their former annual emoluments; (as by the print of Hercules's foot, they framed a judgement of his whole bulk and ſtature) we are, in ſome meaſure enabled, on the one hand, to frame an idea of the vaſt profit ariſing to this nation from its preſent general and total foreign commerce: as, on the other hand, we may form a clear judgement of the inexpreſſible miſery, depopulation, and deſolation, which a general decay of commerce would bring upon this now happy nation. It may not therefor be amiſs, on this occaſion, to exhibit the whole quantity of the proviſions of all kinds expended by the South-ſea company in their eight years whale-fiſhery, as a farther (though but ſmall) teſtimony of the benefits accruing to the public by our navigation and commerce, viz. beef and pork 1380 hundred weight 2 quarters 15 pounds: beer 466 tons 1 barrel 22 gallons: ſtockfiſh 10 tons 9 cwt. $3\frac{1}{2}$ quarters: brandy $1758\frac{1}{2}$ gallons; butter 448 firkins; cheeſe 240 cwt. 3 quarters 2 lb.; peas and oatmeal $1157\frac{1}{2}$ buſhels; bread and flour 1044 cwt. 2 quarters 14 lb.; grout or grots 110 hogſheads. All which proviſions coſt the company no leſs a ſum than L43,768 : 2 : 3.

The Dutch Eaſt-India company reſolved to make a dividend of 25 per cent to their proprietors for this year, to be paid in May 1733. This ſhews the great profits, as well as the prudent management, of that company, who (it is ſaid) never yet divided at any one time the entire profits they made by their vaſt commerce, but always reſerved what we call a neſt-egg, for accidents. While, on the other hand, the Dutch Weſt-India company, who at firſt, and for ſome time, made vaſt profits by their commerce, took a quite contrary courſe, by making large and extravagant dividends, which raiſed the nominal, but depreſſed the real and intrinſic, value of their ſtock. So that when their firſt difficulty came upon them from the Portugueſe, in the middle of the laſt century, they had not means ſufficient to prevent their being driven out of Braſil, to their inexpreſſible loſs. And the like happened to that company a few years after, when they were driven out of New-York and New-Jerſey, and hundreds of families who had ventured their all in that

company were undone. A leſſon for all ſuch trading companies to uſe the greateſt caution in their dividends.

In this ſame year Pope Clement XII erected his city of Ancona, on the Adriatic ſhore, into a free port for all nations, beſtowing on ſuch perſons and families as ſhould ſettle there, ſundry conſiderable exemptions from taxes and burdens, and from duties, &c. on ſuch foreign ſhips as ſhould reſort to that port for commerce. This has ſince had ſome conſiderable effect, that city and port being now more frequented than formerly

The proſperity of the kingdom of Ireland being very much for the intereſt and glory of Great Britain, the wealth, ſtrength, and populouſneſs, thereof undoubtedly contributing to our own; we ſhall here obſerve, that an ingenious anonymous piece was publiſhed this year, in vindication of that country from the clamours raiſed about the clandeſtine trade of running wool and woollen goods from Ireland to foreign parts, with the beſt remedy for the ſame, (in *a Letter to a member of parliament.)*

In general the author undertakes to ſhew, that, though the quantity of wool and woollen yarn ſent from Ireland to England be leſs at preſent than formerly, and is dayly decreaſing, yet it is not occaſioned by a greater quantity thereof being run beyond ſea, but from other cauſes; which he introduces by ſhewing the total quantities of wool and yarn imported into England in different periods, from 1687 downward; and that, in proportion to the gradual decreaſe of that importation, Ireland generally has increaſed in people; becauſe, meeting with other employment, firſt by tillage, and ſince by their linen manufactures, they have bred much fewer ſheep, having turned much of their ſheep-walks into tillage, and the paſture fit for black cattle and horſes.

He obſerves, that in the year 1672 the people of Ireland were computed to amount to 1,100,000, and in 1684 they were 1,200,000: that ſoon after King William's reduction of Ireland they did not exceed 1,040,000, (occaſioned doubtleſs by ſo many of their papiſts going beyond ſea to France, Spain, &c.) But that in the year 1725 they were riſen again to at leaſt 1,670,000 people. That the devaſtation in 1641, and the encouragement given to papiſts towards the end of King Charles II's reign, diſcouraged proteſtants from ſettling there; and thoſe there already being indolent, by reaſon of the cheapneſs of land and proviſions, the bulk of their lands (the people being few) was employed in grazing cattle and ſheep, which occaſioned a great increaſe of the exportation of wool to England: that the great increaſe of people there about the year 1725, by the increaſe of their linen and other manufactures, having brought thither much more wealth, more tillage was wanted, and the ſheep-walks were much leſſened. Thus he thinks it evident, that the decreaſe of the importation of wool and yarn to Eng-

land does not proceed from a greater, or indeed ſo great, a quantity thereof being at this time run beyond ſea, but merely from the later cauſes, and alſo from the increaſe of dairies, and from the conſumption of more ſheep and wool, to feed and clothe their people.

It was therefor a very wiſe meaſure in England to encourage the linen and hempen manufactures of Ireland, as the only effectual way to employ their poor, and prevent the increaſe of their wool, as may be ſeen by the few ſheep that are now in the linen counties, compared to former times, more particularly in the province of Ulſter, wherein the linen manufacture is univerſally ſpread, they not having ſheep enow to ſupply their markets with food, nor the people with clothing. In moſt part alſo of the other three provinces of Ireland, the ſheep-walks are conſtantly decreaſing, and tillage, dairy, and feeding of black cattle and horſes, increaſing along with the linen manufacture, ſpreading faſt into moſt counties. And, though it is not denied, that ſmall quantities of wool, and its manufactures, are ſtill clandeſtinely exported, yet it does not go out in ſuch quantity as has been imagined from the decreaſe of the export of wool and yarn to England. Our brethren of England may therefor ſee, (ſays this ingenious Iriſhman) that, if prudent meaſures be taken, Ireland in a little time will have no more wool, nor woollen manufacture, than is neceſſary for its own conſumption.

Thus, continues he, even the greateſt part of the wool of Ireland is now neceſſary to employ the clothiers in Dublin, who ſupply moſt parts of that kingdom with woollen goods. It is alſo certain, that moſt of the woollen and bay yarn ſpun in the weſt of Ireland, as well as a great quantity from Dublin, is exported to England.

We ſhall only add hereunto, that, as the quantity of all kinds of linen imported into the port of London alone, in only the year 1731, was very near 14 millions of ells, from Holland, Germany, and the Eaſt country, the greateſt part of which is again exported to our plantations in America and our factories in Africa, &c. and as the poor of Scotland and Ireland generally live nearly as cheap as the poor in thoſe foreign countries, it is to be hoped, that all manner of encouragement will be given (as indeed has in a great meaſure already been done) for their manufacturing the ſame, inſtead of foreign nations; but moſt eſpecially inſtead of the people of Ruſſia, Poland, and Pruſſia, to whom we pay a great annual balance in money for their linen, naval ſtores, &c.

The number of ſhips belonging to the port of London, according to Mr. Maitland's account for the year 1732, which, in his Survey of London, he ſays was taken from the general regiſter at the cuſtom-houſe, was 1417 veſſels from 15 to 750 tons, containing 178,557 tons, and navigated by 21,797 men: of which ſhips there were 130 from 300 to

500 tons, and 83 from 200 to 300 tons; all the reſt were under 200 tons, excepting the South-ſea company's great ſhip of 750 tons.

The cargoes of ten Dutch Eaſt-India ſhips which arrived this year from Batavia, may be worth recording in this work, viz. 10,700 pieces of ſilk ſtuffs, and 81,985 lb. weight of Bengal raw ſilk; 86,515 pieces of calicoes; 1,419,427 lb. of black, white, and long, pepper; 653,552 lb. tea; 389,940 lb. nutmegs; 136,906 lb. mace; 128,000 lb. of cinnamon; 924,341 lb. ſugar, powdered and candied; 80,000 pots candied nutmegs; 6850 lb. of cardamums; 1,872,375 lb. Java coffee; 5200 lb. cubebs; 592,028 lb. ſaltpetre; 11,700 lb. benzoin; 1015 lb. borax; 200 lb. aguil-wood; 285,069 lb. Caliatour-wood; 125,419 lb. cowries; 72,843 lb. cotton-yarn; 17,100 lb. gumlack; 1500 pieces of walking canes; 11,222 lb. indigo; 21,487 lb. curcuma; 1810 lb. mother-of-pearl; 1445 lb. China-root; 556,215 lb. Sapan-wood; 64 lb. powder of pearl; 23,600 lb. Malacca tin; and 67,141 lb. Siam tin; (beſides a rough diamond, 2 diamond rings, and 2 gold boxes).

This year a number of gentlemen of diſtinction and worth ſet on foot one of the moſt diſintereſted, charitable, and benificent, deſigns that was ever undertaken. Hitherto all our American colonies were profeſſedly planted for the immediate benefit of the undertakers: but this was ſolely for a national and charitable purpoſe, without any other benefit to the undertakers than what reſults from the pleaſure of doing good. Moſt of them were members of parliament, who having lately had occaſion to obſerve the miſery of the priſoners, confined in our gaols for debt, were thence moved with compaſſion for the relief of ſuch unfortunate objects, who, were they ſettled in ſome new colony in our plantations, might, inſtead of a burden and diſgrace, prove a great benefit to the nation; and that moreover many perſecuted proteſtants from beyond ſea might take the benefit of ſuch a colony for ſetting up their reſt there, with the free enjoyment of their civil and religious liberties. There was a great part of the charter-limits of South-Carolina, next to Florida, ſtill unplanted, which it was highly the intereſt of Great Britain to occupy, and plant as ſoon as poſſible, leſt either the Spaniards from Florida, or the French behind it, from the Miſſiſippi, ſhould ſeize on and plant what they ſo found unoccupied; more eſpecially as the later people greatly lament their not having a footing on any part of the eaſtern ſhores of North-America, ſo as to communicate more eaſily with their ſugar-iſlands, their voyages to and from their Miſſiſippi colony being by no means ſo convenient for carrying proviſions, lumber, &c. which therefor they were ſtill obliged to take from our Britiſh continental colonies. This vacancy then was judged abſolutely requiſite to be filled up as ſoon as poſſible.

Theſe reaſons were ſufficiently cogent for gentlemen of ſo public-ſpirited a character and diſpoſition to make the attempt. But firſt they

were to be authorized by his majeſty's perpetual charter, which they obtained on the 9th of June this year; empowering 21 gentlemen by name, and ſuch others as they ſhould from time to time elect into their body, to be truſtees for eſtabliſhing the colony, therein named Georgia in America, bounded between the moſt northern ſtream of the river Savannah, and the moſt ſouthern ſtream of the river Alatamaha, ſtretching above 100 miles along the ſea-coaſt, and extending weſtward from the heads of the ſaid rivers in direct lines to the South ſea, with the iſlands within 20 leagues of the ſea-coaſt. The truſtees were empowered to receive and manage the contributions of all perſons and corporations inclined to give money for tranſporting people to, and ſettling them in, the ſaid country. This corporation was made capable in law to hold and purchaſe lands, &c. in Great Britain, to the value of £1000 yearly, and in America to an unlimited value, for the ſaid charitable purpoſe. Their common-council to conſiſt of 15 perſons, with power to make them up 24, as they afterwards did. They were to pay annually to the crown 4s for every 100 acres of land granted to the planters, the quit-rent to begin to be paid 10 years after the reſpective dates of ſuch grants. Georgia to remain forever an independent province; ſave only that its militia ſhall be commanded by the governor of South-Carolina: but the government of the colony in other reſpects to be in the truſtees for 21 years, at the expiration of which it was to be veſted in the crown. Liberty of conſcience and freedom of worſhip allowed to all its inhabitants, papiſts alone excepted. Lands to be granted to any perſon, not exceeding 500 acres, on ſuch terms as to the common-council ſhould ſeem proper. No truſtee to hold lands nor office in Georgia. The grants of lands to be regiſtered here in the office of the auditor of the plantations. With reſpect to the progreſs made by thoſe truſtees, it may be truely ſaid, that they took all poſſible pains for executing the truſt: they erected two good towns, Savannah and Frederica, at the north and ſouth extremities of the province, beſides ſeveral villages and ſmall forts, and one more conſiderable one among the Indians, called Auguſta, with a ſmall garriſon for the protection of the Indian trade, 240 miles weſt from the ſea, up the river Savannah. They made a common nurſery-garden of white mulberry trees, for the production of ſilk. They procured foreign vine-dreſſers to improve the native vines, which in great abundance run up the talleſt trees, and bear ſmall grapes; and they have alſo ſent thither many ſorts of vines from Europe; as alſo ſome Piedmonteſes, ſkilled in the winding of ſilk, and tending the ſilk-worms. For ſeveral years alſo they and other lords and gentlemen, by ſubſcription, maintained a travelling profeſſor of botany for collecting the moſt pretious plants and ſeeds in various American climates, to be tranſplanted to Georgia. Yet, by having ſeveral idle drones, drunkards, and downright rogues, the proſperity of

this colony was at firſt much retarded, as it was alſo by frequent alarms from the Spaniards; and, it muſt be confeſſed, in part alſo, by an ill-judged, though well-meant, utopian ſcheme for limiting the tenure of lands, and for the excluſion of negro ſlaves, both which miſtakes have ſince been rectified. By the planting of Georgia, Carolina has felt the benefit of being able to run out (as they term it) much land, which, till that new frontier barrier was eſtabliſhed, they had no inclination to do, whereby thoſe lands have been raiſed to five times their former value about Port-royal, and toward the river Savannah. Georgia, therefor, cannot fail to be of great ſervice to us on many accounts. The Britiſh navy may, in its bays and harbours, in caſe of a war, ſafely lie in wait for the Spaniſh galleons, or for the French from Miſſiſippi, in going to Europe through the dangerous gulf of Florida, while the neighbouring Spaniſh port of St. Auguſtine is almoſt choaked up with ſand. The truſtees of Georgia erected a fort in the nation of the Upper Creeks, almoſt 400 miles from the ſea, and not above 40 miles from the neareſt French fort in Miſſiſippi, whereby all that tract of country is kept poſſeſſion of for us.

Georgia produces a great variety of excellent plants and drugs; orange trees in ſome parts of it: great plenty of horſes and black cattle are already raiſed; and the Saltſburgers of Ebenezer long ſince raiſed more corn than they conſumed. There is plenty of wild fowl, and alſo fiſh on its coaſts. And ſince it has fallen under the government of the crown, it gradually increaſes in people and improvements more and more.

The court of Spain was this year put upon a project for erecting an Eaſt-India company, to trade to the Philippine iſles directly from Cadiz, by the Cape of Good Hope. And though it concerned all the other European nations trading to India, yet it more eſpecially concerned the Dutch, to oppoſe it, as it is directly contrary to the later part of the 5th article of the treaty of Munſter, in the year 1648, between Spain and them; and as the ſame article was lately ſucceſsfully made uſe of againſt the Oſtend company of the Spaniſh or Auſtrian Netherlands, it may be yet more ſtrongly oppoſed to the erection of this new company, viz. 'it is ſtipulated and agreed, that the Spaniards ſhall confine their navi-'gation in the Eaſt-Indies in ſuch manner as it is at preſent poſſeſſed 'by them, without having it in their power to extend the ſame any 'farther: as, alſo, the inhabitants of the Netherlands ſhall abſtain 'from frequenting thoſe places which belong to the Caſtilians in the 'Eaſt-Indies.' Now the Eaſt-India trade, as then poſſeſſed by Spain, was practiſed ſolely from New-Spain to the Philippines, and back to the port of Acapulco; but no Eaſt-India trade at all from Spain by the way of the Cape of Good Hope; wherefor the Dutch at this time moſt

juſtly and zealouſly, and in the end effectually, oppoſed ſo palpable a contravention of that treaty.

Purſuant to an order of the Britiſh houſe of commons, directed to the lords commiſſioners of trade and plantations in the later end of the laſt, or the beginning of this year, relating to the diſpute ſtill ſubſiſting between the ſugar colonies, and the northern continental colonies of America, that board reported, with reſpect to laws made, manufactures ſet up, or trade carried on, there, detrimental to the trade, navigation, or manufactures, of Great Britain, as follows, viz.

With reſpect to the laws, it is premiſed, 'that many of the Britiſh 'colonies in America are immediately under the government of the 'crown, namely, Nova-Scotia, New-Hampſhire, the Jerſeys, New-York, 'Virginia, the two Carolinas, Bermudas, the Bahama iſlands, Jamaica, 'Barbados, and the Leeward iſlands. Others are veſted in proprietors, 'as Pennſylvania, Maryland; and not long ſince the Bahamas, and the 'two Carolinas alſo.

'There are likewiſe three charter governments. The chief of theſe 'is Maſſachuſets-bay, called New England, the conſtitution whereof is 'of a mixed nature, where the power ſeems to be divided between the 'king and the people, but in which the people have much the greater 'ſhare; for here the people do not only chooſe the aſſembly, as in other 'colonies, but the aſſembly chooſes the council alſo, and the governor 'depends on the aſſembly for his annual ſupport, which has too fre-'quently laid the governors of this province under temptations of giv-'ing up the prerogative of the crown, and the intereſt of Great Britain. 'The two remaining provinces, Connecticut and Rhode-iſland, are 'charter governments alſo, or rather corporations, where almoſt the 'whole power of the crown is delegated to the people; for they chooſe 'their aſſembly, their council, and their governor, likewiſe annually, 'and hold little or no correſpondence with our office.

'It is not ſurpriſing that governments, conſtituted like theſe laſt 'mentioned, ſhould be guilty of many irregularities in point of trade, 'as well as in other reſpects.

'All theſe colonies, however, by their ſeveral conſtitutions, have the 'power of making laws for their better government and ſupport, pro-'vided they be not repugnant to the laws of Great Britain, nor detri-'mental to their mother country.

'And theſe laws, when they have regularly paſſed the council and 'aſſembly of any province, and received the governor's aſſent, become 'valid in that province, repealable, however, by his majeſty in council, 'upon juſt complaint, and do not acquire a perpetual force, unleſs con-'firmed by his majeſty in council.

'But there are ſome exceptions to this rule in the proprietary and 'charter governments; for in the province of Pennſylvania they are

'only obliged to deliver a tranſcript of their laws to the privy council 'within *five years* after they are paſſed; and if his majeſty does not think 'fit to repeal them in *ſix months* from the time ſuch tranſcript is ſo de-'livered, it is not in the power of the crown to repeal them afterwards.

'In the Maſſachuſets-bay alſo, if their laws are not repealed within '*three years* after they have been preſented to his majeſty, for his ap-'probation or diſallowance, they are not repealable by the crown after 'that time.

'The provinces of Maryland, Connecticut, and Rhode-iſland, not 'being under any obligation by their reſpective conſtitutions, to return 'authentic copies of their laws to the crown for approbation or diſal-'lowance, or to give any account of their proceedings, we are very little 'informed what is doing in any of theſe governments.

'All the governors of the colonies, who act under the king's appoint-'ment, ought, within a reaſonable time, to tranſmit home authentic 'copies of the ſeveral acts by them paſſed, to go through a proper ex-'amination.

'The following complaints have, however, been lately made to this 'board againſt ſome plantation-laws, viz.

'In Maſſachuſets-bay an act was made to encourage the manufacture 'of paper, which law interferes with the profit made by the Britiſh 'merchant on foreign paper ſent thither, being almoſt the only ſort of 'paper ſent thither.

'In New-York there is a duty of L2, (or five ounces of ſilver) laid 'on all negroes imported from Africa, and of L4 on all negroes import-'ed from any other place.

'In New-England, New-York, Connecticut, Rhode-iſland, Pennſyl-'vania, and in the county of Somerſet, in Maryland, they have fallen 'into the manufacture of woollen cloth and linen cloth, for the uſe of 'their own families only.

'For the product of thoſe colonies being chiefly cattle and grain, the 'eſtates of the inhabitants depended wholely on farming, which could 'not be managed without a certain quantity of ſheep; and their wool 'would be entirely loſt, were not their ſervants employed during win-'ter in manufacturing it for the uſe of their families.

'Flax and hemp being likewiſe eaſily raiſed, the inhabitants manu-'factured them into a coarſe ſort of cloth, bags, traces, and halters, for 'their horſes, which they found did more ſervice than thoſe they had 'from any part of Europe. However, the high price of labour in ge-'neral in America rendered it impracticable for people there to ma-'nufacture their linen cloth at leſs than 20 per cent more than the rate 'in England, or woollen cloth at leſs than 50 per cent dearer than that 'which is exported from hence for ſale. It were to be wiſhed, that 'ſome expedient might be fallen upon to divert their thoughts from

'undertakings of this nature; ſo much the rather, becauſe thoſe manufactures, in proceſs of time, may be carried on in a greater degree, 'unleſs an early ſtop be put to their progreſs, by employing them in 'naval ſtores. Wherefor we take leave to renew our repeated propoſals, that reaſonable encouragement be given to the ſame. Moreover, we find that certain trades carried on, and manufactures ſet up 'there, are detrimental to the trade, navigation, and manufactures of 'Great Britain. For the ſtate of thoſe plantations varying almoſt every 'year, more or leſs, in their trade and manufactures, as well as in other 'particulars, we thought it neceſſary for his majeſty's ſervice, and for 'the diſcharge of our truſt, from time to time, to ſend certain general 'queries to the ſeveral governors in America, that we might be the 'more exactly informed of the condition of the plantations, among 'which there were ſeveral that related to their trade and manufactures, 'to which we received the following returns, viz.

'The governor of New-Hampſhire, in his anſwer, ſaid, that there 'were no ſettled manufactures in that province, and that their trade 'principally conſiſted in lumber and fiſh.

'The governor of Maſſachuſets-bay informed us, that in ſome parts 'of this province the inhabitants worked up their wool and flax into 'an ordinary coarſe cloth for their own uſe, but did not export any. 'That the greateſt part of the woollen and linen clothing, worn in this 'province, was imported from Great Britain, and ſometimes from Ire'land; but, conſidering the exceſſive price of labour in New-England, 'the merchants could afford what was imported cheaper than what was 'made in that country. That there were alſo a few hat-makers in the 'maritime towns; and that the greater part of the leather uſed in that 'country was manufactured among themſelves; that there had been 'for many years ſome iron works in that province, which had afforded 'the people iron for ſome of their neceſſary occaſions; but that the 'iron imported from Great Britain was eſteemed much the beſt, and 'wholely uſed by the ſhipping. And that the iron works of that pro'vince were not able to ſupply the twentieth part of what was neceſſary 'for the uſe of the country.

'They had no manufactures in the province of New-York, that de'ſerved mentioning: their trade conſiſted chiefly in furs, whalebone, 'oil, pitch, tar, and proviſions.

'No manufactures in New-Jerſey, that deſerve mentioning: their 'trade being chiefly in proviſions ſhipped from New-York and Penn'ſylvania.

'The chief trade of Pennſylvania lay in the exportation of proviſions 'and lumber; no manufactures being eſtabliſhed, and their clothing 'and utenſils for their houſes being all imported from Great Britain.

'By further advices from New-Hampſhire, the woollen manufacture

' appears to have decreaſed, the common lands on which the ſheep uſed ' to feed, being now appropriated, and the people almoſt wholely clothed ' with woollen from Great Britain. The manufacture of flax into linen, ' ſome coarſer, ſome finer, dayly increaſed by the great reſort of people ' from Ireland thither, who are well ſkilled in that buſineſs. And the ' chief trade of this province continued, as for many years paſt, in the ' exportation of naval ſtores, lumber, and fiſh.

' By later accounts from Maſſachuſets-bay in New-England, the af- ' ſembly have voted a bounty of 30*ſ* for every piece of duck or canvas ' made in the province. Some other manufactures are carried on there, ' as brown Hollands for women's wear, which leſſens the importation ' of calicoes, and ſome other ſorts of Eaſt-India goods. They alſo make ' ſome ſmall quantities of cloth, made of linen and cotton, for ordinary ' ſhirting and ſheeting. By a paper-mill ſet up three years ago, they ' make to the value of L200 ſterling yearly. There are alſo ſeveral ' forges for making bar iron, and ſome furnaces for caſt iron, or hollow ' ware, and one ſlitting mill, and a manufacture of nails.

' The governor writes concerning the woollen manufacture, that ' the country people, who uſed formerly to make moſt of their cloth- ' ing out of their own wool, do not now make a third part of what they ' wear, but are moſtly clothed with Britiſh manufactures. The ſame ' governor, (Belcher) by ſome of his letters of an older date, in anſwer ' to our annual queries, writes, that there are ſome few copper mines ' in this province, but ſo far diſtant from water-carriage, and the ore ſo ' poor, that it is not worth the digging. The ſurveyor-general of his ' majeſty's woods writes, that they have in New-England ſix furnaces ' and nineteen forges for making iron; and that in this province ' many ſhips are built for the French and Spaniards, in return for rum, ' melaſſes, wines, and ſilks, which they truck there by connivance. ' Great quantities of hats are made in New-England, of which the com- ' pany of hatters of London have likewiſe lately complained to us. ' That great quantities of thoſe hats are exported to Spain, Portugal, ' and our Weſt-India iſlands. They alſo make all ſorts of iron work ' for ſhipping. There are ſeveral ſaill-houſes and ſugar-bakers eſtabliſh- ' ed in New-England.

' By later advices from New-York, there are no manufactures there ' that can affect thoſe of Great Britain. There is yearly imported into ' New-York a very large quantity of the woollen manufactures of this ' kingdom, for their clothing, which they would be rendered incap- ' able to pay for, and would be reduced to the neceſſity of making for ' themſelves, if they were prohibited from receiving from the foreign ' ſugar colonies, the money, rum, ſugar, melaſſes, cacao, indigo, cotton- ' wool, &c. which they at preſent take in return for proviſions, horſes, ' and lumber, the produce of that province, and of New-Jerſey, of

'which, he affirms, the Britiſh ſugar colonies do not take off above one 'half. But the company of hatters of London have ſince informed us, 'that hats are manufactured in great quantities in this province.

'By the laſt letters from the deputy-governor of Pennſylvania, he does 'not know of any trade carried on in that province, that can be injuri- 'ous to this kingdom. They do not export any woollen or linen ma- 'nufactures; all that they make, which are of a coarſer ſort, being for 'their own uſe. We are farther informed, that in this province are 'built many brigantines and ſmall ſloops, which they ſell to the Weſt- 'Indies.

'The governor of Rhode-iſland informs us, in anſwer to our queries, 'that there are iron mines there; but not a fourth part iron enough to 'ſerve their own uſe. But he takes no notice of any ſort of manufac- 'ture ſet up there.

'No return from the governor of Connecticut. But we find by ſome 'accounts, that the produce of this colony is timber, boards, all ſorts 'of Engliſh grain, hemp, flax, ſheep, black cattle, ſwine, horſes, goats, 'and tobacco. That they export horſes and lumber to the Weſt-Indies, 'and receive in return, ſugar, ſalt, melaſſes, and rum. We likewiſe 'find that their manufactures are very inconſiderable; the people there 'being generally employed in tillage; ſome few in tanning, ſhoemak- 'ing, and other handicrafts; others in building, and joiner's, tailor's, 'and ſmith's, work, without which they could not ſubſiſt.'

No report is made concerning Carolina, the Bahama nor the Bermu- da iſles: and as for Newfoundland it is ſcarcely to be called a plantation, and Hudſon's-bay not at all.

'By the laſt returns which we have had from the ſugar iſlands, we 'do not find that they have any other manufactures eſtabliſhed, beſides 'thoſe of ſugar, melaſſes, rum, and indigo, of their own produce. 'Theſe, with cotton, aloes, pimento, and ſome other productions of 'leſs note, are their whole dependence, which are commodities noway 'interfering with the manufactures of this kingdom. In the year 1724, 'Mr. Worſley, then governor of Barbados informed us, that of cotton 'they made hammocks, a few ſtockings, and nets for horſes.

'From the foregoing ſtate, it is obſervable, that there are more trades 'carried on, and manufactures ſet up, in the provinces on the continent 'of America to the northward of Virginia, prejudicial to the trade and 'manufactures of Great Britain, particularly in New-England, than in 'any other of the Britiſh colonies; which is not to be wondered at: 'for their ſoil, climate, and produce, being pretty near the ſame with 'ours, they have no ſtaple commodities of their own growth to ex- 'change for our manufactures; which puts them under greater neceſ- 'ſity, as well as under greater temptation, of providing for themſelves at home; to which may be added, in the charter governments, the little

' dependence they have upon the mother country, and conſequently ' the ſmall reſtraints they are under in any matters detrimental to her ' intereſts.

' And therefor, we would humbly beg leave to report and ſubmit ' to the wiſdom of this honourable houſe, the ſubſtance of what we ' formerly propoſed in our report on the ſilk, linen, and woollen, manu- ' factures herein before recited; namely, whether it might not be ex- ' pedient to give thoſe colonies proper encouragements for turning their ' induſtry to ſuch manufactures and products as might be of ſervice to ' Great Britain, and more particularly to the production of all kinds of ' naval ſtores.' (Signed) ' PAUL DOCKMINIQUE, &c *. Whitehall, Feb- ' ruary 15, 1731-2.'

From the foregoing report, the great uſefulneſs of the inſtitution of the board of trade and plantations may evidently be ſeen; notwithſtanding it too plainly appears alſo, that in anſwer to their annual queries ſent to our plantations, the governors of the northern colonies, as in the inſtances above of New-York and Pennſylvania, may frequently impoſe on that board, in favour of their reſpective governments; which, it is humbly apprehended, might be eaſily and effectually prevented by our Britiſh legiſlature.

We ſhall only ſay farther, that defective as the above report to parliament is, it is undoubtedly to be preferred to the accounts publiſhed by any private perſons, and infinitely more ſo to ſuch as are publiſhed by anonymous authors, who, for the moſt part, write for mere private intereſt, and oftimes to miſguide the unwary.

By this report alſo, the different conſtitutions and intereſts of our American colonies are clearly explained by undoubted authority; though we cannot but hope and wiſh, that the time will come, when all our American colonies may be fixed on one uniform regal and legal plan, however inſuperable the difficulties of ſuch a plan may ſeem to many, who perhaps have not duely conſidered, what a Britiſh king united to a Britiſh parliament can effect for removing all the obſtacles reſulting from the proprietary, charter, and mixed, conſtitutions of ſeveral of thoſe colonies; more eſpecially as the removal of ſome of thoſe difficulties has been already effected in our own times.

1733.—England, and more particularly the city of London, being now become a great mart for diamonds, and other pretious ſtones and jewels, (according to the preamble to an act of parliament, for the free importation and exportation of diamonds, pearls, rubies, emeralds, and all other jewels and pretious ſtones) from whence moſt foreign countries are ſupplied, and great numbers of rough diamonds are ſent from abroad to be cut and poliſhed here, which is a great advantange to this nation;

* There are ſeveral articles deficient in this abſtract by Mr. Anderſon, who has had an imperfect copy of the report: but, in the preſent ſtate of America, they are not ſo intereſting as when he wrote. *M.*

and there is great reaſon to believe, if the importation thereof was encouraged and made eaſy, the ſaid trade would increaſe; it was therefor enacted, that diamonds, &c. might hereafter be imported, as before they might have been exported, free of all duty, in any ſhip or veſſel whatſoever; with this only proviſo, that this exemption ſhall not make void the duty granted to his majeſty for the uſe of the Eaſt-India company, on thoſe imported from places within their limits. [6 *Geo. II, c.* 7.]

The warm diſpute between the Britiſh American ſugar colonies, and the Britiſh northern colonies, begun in the year 1731, concerning the trade of the later with the French, Dutch, and Daniſh, ſugar colonies, of whom they took off in exchange, for their proviſions, horſes, lumber, &c. conſiderable quantities of ſugar, rum, and melaſſes, was now finally terminated, by a prudent temperament of an act of parliament [6 *Geo. II, c.* 13] for the better ſecuring and encouraging the trade of his majeſty's ſugar colonies in America, the preamble to which ſets forth, 'that whereas the welfare and proſperity of your majeſty's ſugar colonies in America are of the greateſt conſequence and importance to the trade, navigation, and ſtrength, of this kingdom; and whereas the planters of the ſaid ſugar colonies have of late years fallen under ſuch great diſcouragements, that they are unable to improve or carry on the ſugar trade upon an equal footing with the foreign ſugar colonies, without ſome advantage and relief be given to them from Great Britain: be it therefor enacted, I) that the ſeveral after-mentioned rates and duties be granted, viz. upon all rum of the foreign ſugar colonies, which ſhall be imported into any of the Britiſh plantations in America, ninepence ſterling for every gallon. Sixpence for every gallon of melaſſes, and five ſhillings on every hundred weight of ſugars and paneles; to be paid down in ready money by the importers before their landing the ſame *.'

II) That no ſugars, paneles, ſyrups, or melaſſes, nor any rum or ſpirits of America, except of the growth of his majeſty's ſugar colonies, ſhall be imported into Ireland, but ſuch only as ſhall be laden and ſhipped in Great Britain in ſhips navigated according to the navigation

* The northern coloniſts conſidered this act as a cruel grievance, and little better than a total annihilation of their commerce; their trade with Britain being, as they aſſerted, ſupported ſolely by the money received in the foreign iſlands. If we may truſt to the teſtimony of an American writer, this act 'hath never in any degree increaſed the royal revenue, or brought any other real advantage to the mother country. Neither hath it been at all more beneficial to the Britiſh ſugar colonies, at whoſe inſtance it was procured. But although ſo ſalutary conſequences have anywhere followed this act, yet many and great miſchiefs and diſadvantages, as well as corrupt and ſcandalous practices, have followed from it in all the Engliſh colonies. The merchants, unwilling to quit a trade, which was in a great meaſure the foundation of their whole circle of commerce, have gone into many illicit methods to cover them in ſtill carrying it on; while the cuſtom-houſe officers have made a very lucrative job of ſhutting their eyes, or at leaſt of opening them no farther than their own private intereſt required'. [*Eſſay on the trade of the northern colonies, printed at Philadelphia, reprinted at London*, 1764, *p.* 20.] He might have added, that ſome of the revenue officers in the higher departments were believed to be deeply concerned in the ſmuggling trade, which this act produced. *M.*

laws, under forfeiture of ſhip and cargo: with ſundry penalties on perſons aiding in any clandeſtine importation; on perſons obſtructing cuſtom-houſe officers; on cuſtom-houſe officers conniving; on ſhip-maſters ſuffering ſuch clandeſtine importation. Moreover, on all ſugars and paneles imported into Great Britain, on which the duty has been paid, if exported within one year after, all the duty ſhall be repaid; and alſo two ſhillings per hundred-weight on all refined ſugars exported from Great Britain, over and above the former allowances on exportation. Proviſo, that nothing in this act ſhall be conſtrued to extend to reſtrain the importation of ſugars of the growth or produce of the dominions of Spain or Portugal, from places from whence ſuch ſugars might lawfully before have been imported. [6 *Geo. II, c.* 13.]

By an act of parliament, [6 *Geo. II, c.* 25] another million out of the ſinking fund, was paid off the joint ſtock of South-ſea annuities; whereby L6:7:6 per cent was paid to each proprietor, and written off from each reſpective account from the 29th of September 1733: the total joint ſtock of South-ſea annuities being L15,651,099:17:5.

The king having, by proclamation, prohibited the circulation of the worn-out gold coins of twenty-five ſhillings, and twenty-three ſhillings, commonly called broad pieces, and the halves and quarters thereof; he alſo, for the eaſe of his people, directed the receivers of taxes, and alſo the officers of his mint, to receive them at L4:1 per ounce troy, during one whole year to come: and that ſuch of them as ſhould be ſo brought to the mint ſhould be coined into the current gold coins of the kingdom. And it being apprehended, that the advantage of ſo good an allowance as L4:1 per ounce might tempt evil-minded perſons to counterfeit them, another ſtatute made it high treaſon to counterfeit any of the gold coins, commonly called broad pieces, or knowingly to utter ſuch counterfeit old coins; and L40 reward was allowed to ſuch as ſhould diſcover the counterfeiters thereof. [6 *Geo. II, c.* 26.]

The royal African company of England was ſtill in a very bad condition. For though the parliament had, every year ſince 1730, granted them L10,000 for the ſupport of their forts and factories on the African coaſt, yet conſtantly continuing to be loſers by their trade for negroes to America, as they had been for many years paſt, they at length reſolved to confine themſelves to the purchaſe of ſlaves on that coaſt, and ſelling them again to private traders to America, (to all whom the trade to Africa had been laid open by parliament, on granting the annual L10,000) and to employ their ſervants in carrying on a trade far up into the inland countries of Africa, for gold, elephants' teeth, bees-wax, drugs, dying woods, &c. Yet even that more contracted trade would not anſwer, ſo as to make any dividend on ſo ſmall a capital ſtock as about L200,000. So far from it, that they were not able to get clear of their debts and other incumbrances, even though

they had greatly reduced the ſalaries and allowances of their officers and ſervants both at home and abroad, and had practiſed ſundry other means of frugality. But it ſeems that their ſervants in Africa had ſhamefully impoſed on their court of aſſiſtants, who at this time laid all theſe matters before their general court of proprietors; and that, as they had then nine ſhips of their own, they propoſed, for increaſing their aſſortments of goods at their ſeveral factories, and for driving on a large inland trade with the vaſt countries behind their forts and factories, to create bonds under the common ſeal, to the value of L20,000, bearing 4 per cent intereſt, which their general court agreed to. Yet, notwithſtanding this, and that their court of aſſiſtants were gentlemen of character and credit, their affairs went continually retrograde, the private traders having always the advantage of them, as indeed will ever be the caſe in all branches of commerce, wherein trade is freely laid open to all.

A propoſal being this year made by the court of Spain, to allow the South-ſea company 2 per cent on the returns of the flota and galleons, as an equivalent for their annual ſhip, during the remainder of the company's term, that matter was debated in their general courts, but the conſideration thereof was poſtponed. Yet we ſhall here briefly ſtate what was then ſaid in favour of that propoſal, viz.

It was admitted by all ſides, that the aſſiento contract for ſupplying Spaniſh America with negroes, was not only a greatly loſing trade to this company, but was well known to have been ſo to all former aſſientiſts.

The annual ſhip was therefor granted by Spain in compenſation for that loſs; which, however, (excepting the very laſt voyage, which returned from Porto-bello in the year 1731) had likewiſe proved a loſing trade.

The bad ſucceſs of this trade has been uſually attributed to two principal cauſes, viz. to the frequent ſeizures made by Spain on the company's effects in America, which was likely ever to be the caſe, while the company had factors and conſiderable effects in the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, being an opportunity afforded to Spain to inſult us, even on very inſignificant occaſions: and to the miſmanagement of the company's factors and agents in America, who got large eſtates in a very few years, and ſome of them even in little more than one year, while the company continued to be ſuch great loſers. There were moreover frequent occaſions taken by the court of Spain to obſtruct the going out, and alſo the return of the annual ſhip, in due ſeaſon, on account of her menſuration at home, or on ſome other frivolous pretext in America, in order thereby to give their flotas and flotillas the advantage.

It was therefor argued, by ſuch as were for the company quitting the

trade entirely, and accepting an equivalent, that the not ſending ſuch a ſhip directly to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies will not in the leaſt diminiſh the conſumption of Britiſh commodities in that part of the world, as the ſame ſorts, and, as they alleged, greater quantities, of Engliſh goods will be ſent thither (as before this aſſiento trade was granted) by the way of Cadiz, and from thence by their flotas and galleons to the Weſt-Indies, or elſe ſmuggled to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies by the way of Jamaica and the Leeward iſlands.

The returns, on which the propoſed 2 per cent to the company was to ariſe, by the flota and galleons, and on the Spaniſh regiſter ſhips, returning from thoſe parts, to which the company have a right to ſend their annual ſhip, were computed to amount to at leaſt 15 millions of pieces of eight; and 2 per cent thereon would be 300,000 dollars, or pieces of eight, or about L70,000 ſterling.

On the other ſide of the queſtion, it was admitted, that the company's adventure by their annual ſhip amounted to about L200,000 ſterling; upon which there might be an advance of 75 per cent, or in all - - - - L350,000 o o

From which deduct,

The coſt, - - -	L200,000	o	o
Seamen's wages and ſtores, -	25,000	o	o
Maintenance of ſervants, and preſents abroad, - -	10,000	o	o
Commiſſion and privilege to ſupercargoes, &c. - -	20,000	o	o
Intereſt on L200,000 for two years,	16,000	o	o
Extraordinary charges of management at home on this account, -	5,000	o	o
Total coſt, -			276,000 o o

Eſtimated profit upon the annual ſhip, L74,000 o o

This calculation is made excluſive of inſurance, and of the riſk of bad debts; and alſo on the ſuppoſition of an uninterrupted enjoyment of the trade, without any ſeizures or detentions of the ſhips. Nothing, however, was determined concerning this trade, which remained in ſuſpenſe till it was entirely given up by treaty.

Though the preceding michaelmas groſs ſale of the Eaſt-India company's merchandize, including L70,000 brought home in gold for the general account, amounted to above L1,300,000, yet the company having ſo lately advanced L200,000 to the public for the prolongation of their privileges, and at the ſame time ſuffered an abatement of 1 per cent from the intereſt of their whole capital of L3,200,000, the court of directors, on mature conſideration, propoſed to reduce their dividend from *eight* to *ſix* per cent. Nevertheleſs, ſuch was the unaccountable

humour of the majority of a general court, that, though their directors acquainted them that they perſiſted in their former opinion that not above three per cent could be prudently divided for the current half year, the ballot determined it by above two to one, for three and a half, even though they were then likewiſe told, that the ſecrecy proper to be obſerved by great trading ſocieties can very ſeldom, if ever, admit of particular calculations to be laid before ſuch popular aſſemblies as general courts; and though they well knew, that the directors were at leaſt as much intereſted as moſt other proprietors in keeping up the dividends on their ſtock *.

It is by no means foreign to our ſubject to obſerve, that a new and moſt hopeful corporation was now erected for promoting Engliſh proteſtant working ſchools in Ireland. The author of this work having at this time been ſomewhat uſeful in correſponding with Dr. Maule, then biſhop of Dromore, for promoting the charter thereof, received of that biſhop the following well vouched account of the number of people, both proteſtants and papiſts, in all Ireland, viz. that, by the biſhop's books and other authentic vouchers, there were at leaſt two millions of people in all Ireland, of which there were very near 600,000 proteſtants, and ſomewhat above 1,400,000 papiſts. About the ſame time there came out a printed liſt of the numbers of both religions in every county in Ireland, but, for brevity's ſake, we ſhall content ourſelves with the four great diviſions, called provinces, of Ireland, viz.

In Ulſter,	proteſtant families, 62,620	popiſh families	38,459
— Leinſter,	25,238		92,424
— Munſter,	13,337		106,407
— Connaught,	4,299		44,133
Total, proteſtant families,	105,494	popiſh families	281,423

which, at five to each family in the country, and ten for Dublin, and ſeven for Cork, makes in all 2,015,229 ſouls, very nearly correſponding with Biſhop Maule's account.

The printed account makes the proteſtant families in Dublin to be - - - - - - - - 8,823

——————————— popiſh ones to be - 4,119

12,942

Which, at 10 to each family, makes the people of Dublin amount to - - - - - - 129,420

Proteſtant families in the city of Cork,	2,569	
Popiſh families, - - -	5,398	
Total, -	——	7,967

Which, at ſeven to each family, makes 55,769 ſouls in Cork.

* The dividend was reduced from *eight* to *ſeven* per cent in the year 1732; (ſee above, p. 154.) ſo the proprietors only *continued* the dividend: and it continued the ſame till midſummer 1743. *M.*

The king of Denmark's zeal for the profperity of his fubjects commerce, and more efpecially for that of his Eaft-India company, prompted him this year to erect an infurance company at Copenhagen, in order to avoid fending to Amfterdam for infurances on their fhips and merchandize; the king himfelf firft fubfcribing a confiderable fum into this new company, which was followed by the fubfcriptions of the courtiers, merchants, and others.

The proprietors of the South-fea company's capital ftock being uneafy on account of their loffes by their affiento and Greenland trades, their general court petitioned the parliament to enable them to divide their prefent capital ftock of L14,651,103:8:1, into three fourth parts new South-fea annuity ftock, and one fourth part to be the capital or trading corporation ftock. It was therefor enacted, that the capital ftock be divided, after midfummer 1733, into three fourths annuity ftock, at four per cent, to be called the new joint ftock of South-fea annuities, amounting, by the computation of this act, to L10,988,327: 11/0¾; and the remainder, being L3,662,784:8:6*, to be the fole capital, or trading ftock, of the company, in its corporate capacity; the faid new joint ftock of South-fea annuities to be quite exempted from all concern with the company's debts, bonds, trade, &c. and to be an entire, unincumbered, annuity ftock, redeemable by parliament, as by former ftatutes; the annuity to be payable at chriftmas and midfummer yearly. [*6 Geo. II, c.* 28.]

'Whereas the mafter, wardens, and affiftants, of the corporation of 'the trinity-houfe of Deptford-ftrond, in the county of Kent, have, 'by grants from the crown, the laftage and ballaftage, and the fole 'right of fupplying all fhips and veffels with ballaft, that fail, pafs, and 'repafs, in the river of Thames between London bridge and the main 'fea, at the rates and prices accuftomed; and are alfo entitled to, and 'have a right to, dig, raife, and take up, the gravel, fand, and foil, of 'the river Thames, for ballafting fuch fhips and veffels as aforefaid: 'and whereas the faid mafter, wardens, and affiftants, have for feveral 'years laft paft conftantly employed 60 ballaft-lighters and 120 men, 'to dig and raife ballaft from the fhelves and fand-banks of the river, 'and to carry and convey fuch ballaft to fhips and veffels having occa'fion for the fame; and thereby the channel of the river hath been 'confiderably deepened, and feveral obftructions to the navigation 'therein removed,' therefor an act of the Britifh parliament [*6 Geo. II, c.* 29] fettles the prices to be hereafter paid to that corporation for ballaft, and to their ballaftmen; alfo the burden of ballaft-lighters, &c. in fundry refpects too tedious and needlefs to be herein fpecified; the

* This fum exceeds the real fourth part of the whole, by the fractional part or odd pence, when writing off the three fourths from each proprietor's account, being added to the remaining fourth part. *A.*'

above preamble being ſufficient to explain to the reader the nature, &c. of this part of the buſineſs of the ballaſt-office of the trinity-houſe corporation.

The rice, exported from Carolina to Spain and Portugal, was now become ſo cheap in thoſe two countries as to put almoſt an entire ſtop to the importation of that commodity from Venice and other parts of Italy; which gives room to hope that Carolina may ſoon engroſs all the trade of Europe for that fine grain. Beſides rice, there were exported from Charleſtown in South-Carolina, only within three months of this year, 6073 barrels of pitch, 1985 barrels of tar, and 424 barrels of turpentine. And in the whole year, 36,584 barrels of rice, 2802 barrels of pitch, 848 ditto of turpentine, 60 tons of lignum-vitæ, 20 tons of braſiletto wood *, 27 tons of ſaſſafras, 8 cheſts of ſkins; beſide lumber, pork, beef, peas, and Indian corn. This colony is continually increaſing by the encouragement they give to new comers, both Britiſh and foreigners.

It was at this time computed, that within the compaſs of one year paſt no leſs than 800,000 quarters of corn had been exported from Great Britain to France, Portugal, Spain, and Italy; for which was paid by thoſe nations (including the freight of our own ſhips) at leaſt one million ſterling: being all clear profit to the kingdom. How much therefor is the landed intereſt concerned in this particular reſpect (as well as in all others) in the advancement of Britain's foreign commerce?

Immediately before the South-ſea company had finally determined to lay aſide their Greenland whale-fiſhery, the directors had applied to government for a bounty on the fiſhery; and though it could not then be entirely brought about, yet, in the following year 1733, a bounty was granted by an act of parliament, for the farther encouragement of the whale-fiſhery, carried on by his majeſty's Britiſh ſubjects, of 20ſ per ton on all ſhips fitted out in Great Britain, of 200 tons and upwards, for the whale-fiſhery, and navigated according to law. [6 *Geo. II, c.* 33.] Of this new bounty two ſhips, ſent out this year by private adventurers, enjoyed the benefit, though not very much to the emolument of thoſe adventurers.

Sundry reaſons have been aſſigned for Britiſh ſubjects not hitherto ſucceeding in this fiſhery, and for the greater ſucceſs of the Dutch therein, viz.

I) In general, the greater frugality of the Dutch, whereby (notwithſtanding this our new bounty) they are enabled to underſell us in their oil and whalebone.

II) From the manner in which the Dutch carry on this and

* The lignum-vitæ and braſiletto muſt have been imported into Carolina from the Weſt-Indies. *M.*

their other fiſheries: for the ſhip-builder, the cooper, the ſail-maker, the rope-maker, the baker, brewer, diſtiller, and other tradeſmen, employed in fitting out their ſhips, generally go each a ſhare in the voyage: ſo that ſhould it prove a fortunate fiſhing ſeaſon, they are ſure to be doubly gainers; and even if it ſhould prove a bad fiſhery, they probably loſe but little more than they had gained by ſupplying the outſet of ſuch year in their reſpective branches; whereby they are better enabled to go on in that trade than mere merchants can do without theſe advantages *. De Witt, in his Intereſt of Holland, [*c.* xvi] ſays, 'it 'is worthy of obſervation, that the Dutch Greenland company made 'formerly little profit by it, becauſe of the great charge of ſetting 'out their ſhips: whereas now, that they equip their ſhips at the cheap-'eſt rate, follow their fiſhery diligently, and manage all carefully, the 'train-oil and whale-fins are employed for ſo many uſes in ſeveral 'countries, and they can ſell them with ſuch conveniency, that there 'are now fifteen ſhips for one that formerly ſailed from Holland on 'that fiſhery.'

III) By the re-exportation of a great part of the produce of ſuch fiſhery, they are farther enabled to make up the loſs of any bad year's fiſhery: whereas we have never as yet carried on a whale-fiſhery conſiderable enough to enable us to export any quantity of oil and whale-fins, nor indeed enough to ſupply ourſelves at home. And we may add,

IV) The antient ſtanding reaſon of the greater lowneſs of the intereſt of money in Holland till very lately.

There lies now before the author an account of the Dutch whale-fiſhing for 46 years, ending in 1721. In that ſpace they employed 5886 ſhips †, and caught 32,907 whales; each of which, one with another, being uſually valued at L500, makes the value of the whole amount to above ſixteen millions ſterling, gained out of the ſea, moſtly by the labour of the people; the wear and tear of the ſhipping, the caſks and the proviſions, excepted; which laſt three articles are alſo a vaſt benefit to the public, by the exciſe, &c. paid thereon, as well as to numberleſs individuals employed in providing them.

At the end of this ſame year the South-ſea company's great annual ſhip, the Royal Caroline, arrived from Vera Cruz, after being long detained there, being the laſt annual ſhip which that company is ever like to ſee from the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies; her cargo conſiſted of ſilver, in dollars or pieces of eight, cochineal, and indigo: yet, becauſe of the violent detention, this was ſaid to be a loſing voyage to the company.

* The ſame economy is practiſed in fitting out the fiſhing veſſels at Yarmouth and Billingſgate; the butcher, the baker, rope-maker, ſail-maker, grocer, cooper, maſt-maker, twine-ſpinner, black-ſmith, and the maſter, being joint partners with the factor or ſalesman. [*Reports on the Britiſh fiſheries, 14th July* 1785, *p.* 93; *and* 1800, *pp.* 119, 125. *M.*

† Mr. Anderſon muſt here be underſtood to mean ſo many departures or voyages; not 5886 ſeparate veſſels. The annual average amount is 128 veſſels neareſt. *M.*

1734.—Purſuant to an order of the houſe of peers, in the year 1734, we have the repreſentation of the lords commiſſioners of trade and plantations, exhibiting an exact and curious ſtate of the trade, people, and ſtrength, of our iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, viz.

'Jamaica, though having 19 pariſhes, has but 7644 white people on 'it; though its militia conſiſts of 3000 men, horſe and foot, diſperſed 'all over the inhabited part of the iſland. They have ſix forts; and of 'late have had no fewer than eight independent companies of the king's 'forces, each conſiſting of 100 men.'

The diminution of the white people of Jamaica is owing to the great decay of their private or illicit trade to the Spaniſh main, which drew thither many white people, who generally ſoon acquired great wealth, and returned therewith to their mother country, ſo that the Spaniſh money they got in Jamaica at length centered in England. From Jamaica our people privately carried all ſorts of our manufactures, &c. to New Spain, which, it is well known, can only be legally carried thither by the flota and flotilla from Old Spain: they alſo carried thither great numbers of negroes.

'Our exports to Jamaica, at a medium of four years, from chriſtmas '1728 to chriſtmas 1732, were to the value of L147,675 : 2 : $3\frac{3}{4}$, and 'our imports were L539,499 : 18 : $3\frac{1}{2}$. Annual exceſs of our imports 'from Jamaica is L391,824 : 15 : $11\frac{3}{4}$.

'Barbados has 18,295 white people; its militia conſiſts of one troop 'and two regiments of horſe, and of ſeven regiments of foot, in all '4812 men. In this iſland there are no fewer than 21 forts and 26 bat-'teries, mounted with 463 cannon.'

All our ſugar iſles together are thought to produce annually 85,000 hogſheads of ſugar, each hogſhead containing 1200 cwt. or in all 1,020,000 cwt.; of which Great Britain is thought to conſume annually 70,000 hogſheads, or 94,080,000 pounds of ſugar; which, for ten millions of people, if ſo many there be in Britain, comes to $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of ſugar to each perſon, or if but eight millions of people, then about $11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of ſugar to each perſon; and as there are undoubtedly about two millions and upwards of people in Ireland, we may omit them in this computation, as there may probably be near that number in all the Britiſh dominions who uſe little or no ſugar at all.

It is computed, that 300 ſail of ſhips go annually from Great Britain to the ſugar iſlands, beſide thoſe which go thither from our continental colonies; and that about 4,500 ſeamen are employed in navigating them: and that there is annually exported thither to the value of L240,000 in Britiſh manufactures.

'In all the Britiſh Leeward iſlands, viz. St. Chriſtophers, Antigua, 'Nevis, and Montſerrat, with all their dependencies, Barbuda, An-

guilla, Spaniſhtown, Tortola, and the reſt of the Virgin iſlands, there are 10,262 white people; and their militia conſiſts of 3284 men *.

'The iſlands called the Bahamas are the next in thoſe ſeas of importance to Great Britain; where Providence is the only iſland as yet of any conſideration to us, or that is peopled in any degree. And here they have 500 white people, out of whom they have formed ſix companies of militia, beſide one independant company in his majeſty's pay. On this iſland they have two forts.

'In Bermudas there were a few years ſince 5000 white people, of whom there are 1000 white men, beſide officers, for their militia. They have one fort and ſix batteries.'

Nothing is ſaid in the report of that board of Newfoundland, which, indeed, is properly no colony, it having ſcarcely any ſoil capable of cultivation; and the forts and people there are ſolely for the protection and accommodation of the ſhips of our important cod fiſhery on the adjoining ſhoals, called the banks of Newfoundland, and alſo in its bays and harbours. Thoſe garriſons are alſo requiſite for preventing any other European nation from getting poſſeſſion of the iſland, which would render our fiſhery there very precarious on a rupture with ſuch nation, as it would alſo our communication with our northern colonies. Newfoundland, therefor, on theſe accounts, is of very great importance to us.

A committee of the proprietors of South-ſea ſtock having inſpected the ſtate of the company's commerce to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, it appeared, that the entire balance of that trade from the beginning, or of their ten years American or aſſiento trade, amounted to no more than L32,260:18 profit to the company. This was, by the proprietors of the ſtock, thought, and indeed was, a very inconſiderable profit, being but L3226 for each year of that trade. This it was which made the ſtockholders very earneſt to accept the equivalent formerly propoſed by the court of Spain: but thoſe proprietors or ſtockholders conſidered only their own private advantage by that ſuppoſed equivalent. For as the king and his miniſters muſt have been conſulted, before ſuch equivalent could be accepted by the company, there was a more important and extenſive conſideration to be duely weighed, viz. whether, by the very profitable illicit trade carried on by the company's ſupercargoes,

* In the year 1736 the ſtrength of the Britiſh Leeward iſlands was as follows.

In Antigua	-	1500 men, two forts, and ſeven batteries.
St. Chriſtophers		1340 men, three forts, and ſix batteries.
Montſerrat	-	360 men, one fort, and one battery.
Nevis	- -	300 men, one fort, and one battery.
Anguilla	-	80 men.
Spaniſhtown	-	72 men.
Tortola	- -	120 men.
		3772 white men in all the Britiſh Leeward iſlands. A.

factors, captains, and other servants, employed by them in the Spanish West-Indies, and also under their wings from Jamaica, &c. the nation was not a greater gainer, upon the whole, than they could be by the proposed equivalent, and carrying back the trade to the channel of Cadiz, where, without doubt, our merchants had also a great interest in it. We must, however, now again leave this dispute for future consideration in its proper place.

In order to prevent frauds in stock-jobbing, by bargains for stocks bought or sold for a future time, by persons, on one hand, not possessed of such stock, and, on the other, by many not being in circumstances or ability to pay for such stock; for *puts*, also, and refusals of stocks *, &c. whereby many unwary persons and their innocent families have been undone; it was now enacted, that all contracts and agreements whatsoever, upon which any premium shall be paid for liberty to *put* upon, or to deliver, receive, accept, or refuse, any public or joint stock, or other public securities whatsoever, or any part or share therein; and also all wagers, and contracts in the nature of wagers, or of puts and refusals, relating to the present or future price of any such stocks, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever. And all premiums received upon such bargains shall be restored and repaid to the persons who shall have so paid them, and may be recovered by an action commenced within six months, with double costs; the first receivers of such premium to be obliged to answer upon oath. A penalty of L500 is hereby laid on all persons making such time-bargains or contracts, puts, and refusals; and all brokers, agents, and scriveners, transacting or writing any such contract, shall likewise forfeit the sum of L500, moiety to the king, moiety to the suer for the same. And for preventing the evil practice of compounding or making up differences for bargains on stock so sold, no money shall be voluntarily given or received on that account, or for not performing any such contract; but every such contract shall be specifically performed; and the stock or security thereby agreed to be assigned and transferred, shall be actually so done, and the whole money shall be paid for the same, under the forfeiture of L100 for every such compounding, &c. as aforesaid. Stock sold, and not paid for at the time prefixed, may be lawfully sold again to any other persons, and the buyer shall make good any damage sustained. Stock bought, and not transferred at the due time by the seller, the buyer may purchase other stock, and recover his damage. And whereas it is a frequent and mischievous practice, that persons sell stocks of which they are not possessed, it was enacted, that, for all contracts and agreements hereafter to be made, either for selling or buying such stocks, whereof the person contracting shall not be possessed at the time of such bargain, there shall be L500 penalty; as also L100 penalty on the

* These terms have been already explained under the year 1695. *A.*

broker or agent for procuring ſuch bargain, who ſhall hereafter keep a book or regiſter, to be called the broker's book, wherein all ſuch bargains ſhall be regiſtered; and by his neglecting ſo to do, he ſhall incur the penalty of L50. Nothing herein, however, ſhall affect contracts for any ſtocks made with the privity of the accountant-general of the court of chancery, nor prevent any perſon from lending money on any public joint ſtock, or other public ſecurities, on the redelivering thereof on repayment of the money lent, [7 *Geo. II, c.* 8]. Notwithſtanding this ſtrict law, we have reaſon to believe, that, even to our own time, there are many ſuch illegal bargains ſtill carried on, to the undoing of many.

By a ſtatute [2 *Geo. II, c.* 22] it was made felony to ſteal bonds, notes, or other ſecurities, for payment of money; and it was now farther enacted, that perſons convicted of forging, altering, or counterfeiting, the acceptance of any bill of exchange, or the number or principal ſum of any accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other ſecurity, for payment of money, or delivery of goods, ſhould ſuffer death as felons. [7 *Geo. II, c.* 22].

On the 28th of March 1734, a general court of the South-ſea company, upon the repeated repreſentation of Sir Thomas Geraldino, the Spaniſh agent at London for the affairs of the aſſiento trade of that company, concerning the bad management of their factors, unanimouſly agreed to empower their court of directors to preſent an humble addreſs to his majeſty, deſiring his royal conſent to diſpoſe of the trade and tonnage of the company's annual ſhip.

In Boyer's Political ſtate of Great Britain, for the month of September this year, we find the following view of all the coinage of gold and ſilver in the tower of London, ſince the acceſſion of George II to the throne, viz.

In gold, 43,940 pounds weight, which, at L44: 10 per pound, makes in tale L1,955,330. And in ſilver, only 8742 pounds weight, which, at L3: 2 per pound weight, makes in tale L27,100: 4. 'A very ſmall 'ſum,' ſays our author, 'in proportion to that coined in gold; and ſeems 'to be an evident proof that the current value of the two metals is not 'juſtly proportioned in this kingdom, nor is indeed in any other part 'of Europe, as appears by the great profit that is to be got by carrying ſilver to the Eaſt-Indies and ſelling it for gold.' With this author's leave, what he remarks concerning carrying ſilver to India, would happen though the proportion between gold and ſilver, in all parts of Europe, were ever ſo juſtly aſcertained; ſilver there being a mere commodity, or merchandize, and highly prized as ſuch.

Great complaints came over from Nova-Scotia at this time, and particularly from the Britiſh ſettlement at Canſo, a place of great conſequence to our fiſhing trade in thoſe parts, that though the late king had ſent thither four companies of ſoldiers, yet there had been no money laid

out in fortifying that place: that they were particularly apprehenſive of the encroachments of the French in their neighbourhood, who always are eſpecially careful of their own fortifications; and that, by our ſhameful neglect of Nova-Scotia, our fiſhery there was almoſt dwindled to nothing. Our miniſters, however, ſeemed quite to diſregard, or rather to be quite ignorant of, the vaſt importance of that province.

The Dutch Eaſt-India company had this year 22 ſhips from India, whoſe cargoes were ſo vaſt as well to merit a place in this commercial hiſtory, viz. ſpiceries, 6,311,027 lbs; ſugar, 2,406,428 lbs; ſaltpetre, 1,807,210 lbs; coffee, 3,997,759 lbs; dying and other drugs, 91,949 cheſts, 1,549,463 lbs; tea, 515,970 cheſts, and 369,577 lbs; ſilk, raw, 62,015 lbs; ſilk ſtuffs, 21,205 pieces; calicoes, 209,748 pieces; indigo, 14,483 lbs; tin, 354,000 lbs; copper, 462,500 lbs; candied ginger, 50,486 lbs; China-ware, 525,223 pieces; yarn, 92,441 lbs; candied nutmegs, 8000 pſſ; cubebs, 10,000 lbs; curcuma of Java, 16,250 lbs; mother-of-pearl, 800 lbs; pearls, 10 lbs; cowries, 255,357 lbs; rough diamonds, 2 pſſ; rings, 3 pſſ; canes, 1500 pſſ; and wool, 277 lbs. Such alterations may happen to this commerce in future times, as may poſſibly make this account hereafter ſeem incredible.

The trade to the coaſt of Guinea has ſeldom or never been carried on by excluſive companies, in any part of Europe, to national advantage; private traders, under proper regulations, ſeeming moſt proper for preſerving and extending that, as well as moſt other branches, of foreign commerce. Of this the ſtates-general of the United Netherlands were ſo ſenſible, that they now laid their trade to a diſtrict of 60 leagues of the weſt coaſt of Africa open to all their ſubjects, which had till now been confined to their Weſt-India company; and was ſo to remain for twenty years to come, though under certain regulations mentioned in their placart.

The number of ſhips arriving, during the year 1734, at Amſterdam, was 1721, viz. from Archangel, 33; Peterſburgh, 22; Riga, 70; Narva, 187; Wiburg, 20; Koningſberg, 36; Dantzick, 62; Stockholm, 26; Norway, 163; Greenland, 77; Davis's ſtraits, 69; London, 51; Sunderland, 62; Bourdeaux, 88; Rouen, 33; Bayonne, 18; Nantes, 22; Rochelle, 12; Cadiz, 53; Bilboa, 20; Leghorn, 45; Liſbon, 32; Surinam, 29; and from Eaſt-India, 14. Here is a miſtake of almoſt 400 ſhips too few, in ſpecifying the particulars, in Boyer's Political ſtate for the month of February 1735, probably to be ſupplied by their own coaſters. Imperfect as this liſt is, from it, however, we may learn the immenſe commerce of Amſterdam with the northern crowns, and yet moſt of it is driven by means of the fiſh caught on the Britiſh coaſts. Hereafter, ſuch an account as this may be uſeful for comparing the annual increaſe or decreaſe of the general commerce of the

ſeven United Provinces, and principally that of the famous city of Amſterdam.

The number of ſhips that entered the port of Cadiz in all the year 1734, were, 596 Engliſh, 228 French, 147 Dutch, 13 Swediſh, 14 Daniſh, 2 Portugueſe, 2 Genoeſe, 1 Lubecker, and 1 Hamburgher: in all, 1004 ſhips.

In the ſame year, 1734, there arrived at Cadiz the treaſure and effects of the flota, viz. 11,011,749 dollars in ſpecie for the commerce, and 1,464,582 for the king: in all, 12,476,331, or about 3½ millions ſterling; beſides almoſt five millions of dollars by the Aſſogues ſhips, and beſides the vaſt quantities of cochineal, indigo, ſugar, chocolate, tobacco, ſnuff, hides, cacao, copper, drugs, and dying ſtuffs. The preceding obſervation, relating to the trade of Amſterdam in this ſame year, may hereafter be of equal uſe in the caſe of the annual ſhipping and trade of Cadiz and Spaniſh America.

1735.—The lands in the north riding of the county of York being generally freehold, whereby they could be ſo ſecretly transferred from one perſon to another, or encumbered, that ſuch perſons as were ill-diſpoſed had it in their power to commit frauds, and frequently did ſo; by means whereof, ſeveral perſons, who, through many years induſtry, had been enabled to purchaſe lands, or to lend money thereon, had been undone, by prior and ſecret conveyances and fraudulent encumbrances; it was therefor enacted, that a memorial of all deeds and conveyances ſhould be exhibited by michaelmas 1736, and alſo of all wills, devices, judgments, ſtatutes, and recognizances (other than ſuch entered into in the name of his majeſty and his ſucceſſors) whereby any honours, lands, &c. might be any way affected in law and equity, ſhould be regiſtered, or a memorial thereof, in ſuch manner as was by law directed in the year 1704 for the weſt riding, in 1708 for the eaſt riding, of this county, and in 1709 for the county of Middleſex, otherwiſe they ſhould be adjudged fraudulent, [8 *Geo. II, c.* 6]. How much is it to be wiſhed, that every part of England and Wales were put upon the like regulation; and how eaſily might it be effected, would gentlemen heartily ſet about it.

The French had of late ſo greatly improved their Eaſt-India commerce, that they ſent out fourteen ſhips in the preceding year, whereof twelve arrived in Auguſt 1734; and they were enabled to put up to ſale at their Port L'Orient, the following Eaſt-India merchandize, viz. coffee, tea, drugs, &c. 5,334,712 lbs; calicoes, ſtuffs, &c. 387,820 pieces; 4284 packets of canes; 500 ditto of malack; 71 handkerchiefs of Coſimbazar for ſamples; 39 painted handkerchiefs for ſamples; 5000 fans; 2124 ſheets of paper painted; 28,000 counters and fiſhes, (for card-playing) mother-of-pearl; 1992 cabarets of varniſh; 55 cheſts of China-ware, and 189 rolls ditto.

In this catalogue it may be ſeen, that the company were but new and raw in ſome part of their Eaſt-India commerce, notwithſtanding the very large quantity of goods now imported.

We ſhould here alſo remark, that, in the preceding year (1734) a very rich fleet arrived at Liſbon from Bahia in Brazil, and another from Rio de Janeiro, which brought home, for the king and the merchants, in treaſure, 15½ millions of cruſados in gold, 220 arobas of gold duſt and ingots, 437 arobas of bars of gold, 48 arobas of wrought gold, 8871 marks of ſilver, 42,803 pieces of eight, 3 millions 36 octaves and 5 quintals of diamonds; beſides 11,000 rolls of tobacco, 113,000 hides, 1000 cheſts of ſugar, and many other particulars.

Great quantities of diamonds having lately been brought over from the new diamond mines in Brazil, the king of Portugal, in order to prevent their ſinking in value by reaſon of the quantity imported, reſerved to himſelf all diamonds found in thoſe mines of above twenty carats, on certain conditions.

By the bill of births and mortality of the city of Vienna, for the preceding year 1734, there were chriſtened 5620, and buried 5380: which laſt number multiplied by 30 gives 161,400 ſouls in that city; and if by 33, then it will give 177,540 ſouls therein.

In this year, 1735, there was publiſhed an abſtract of a new treaty of navigation and commerce between Great Britain and Ruſſia, viz.

'I) Where navigation and commerce are permitted to any other na-
'tion, they ſhall be perfectly free in Europe to the eſtates of both the
'contracting parties, who may ſend all ſorts of merchandize, the im-
'portation whereof is not prohibited, and may there likewiſe buy all
'ſorts of merchandize, and export them out of the ſaid eſtates.

'II) The ſubjects of Ruſſia ſhall pay the ſame duties of exportation
'as the Engliſh, particularly on the effects exported from Ruſſia. And
'the Ruſſian merchants ſhall enjoy the ſame liberties and privileges of
'commerce in Great Britain as do the Britiſh merchants of the Ruſſia
'company.

'III) In caſe Britiſh ſubjects ſhall make contracts with the chancery,
'or the college of commerce of Ruſſia, for the delivery of merchan-
'dize, the ſaid merchandize ſhall be received in the time ſpecified, up-
'on a declaration they ſhall make of their being ready.

'IV) The ſubjects of Great Britain may carry to Ruſſia all ſorts of
'merchandize, and may tranſport them thence by land into Perſia, on
'paying a duty of 3 per cent, and may likewiſe bring back from Per-
'ſia, through Ruſſia, all ſorts of merchandize, on again paying the
'ſame duty, without being obliged to open their bales: but, if the
'officers of the cuſtoms have reaſon to ſuſpect that the juſt value there-
'of hath not been declared, they may ſtop the goods for their inſpec-
'tion, and, in the meantime, be paid according to the value declared.

'V) The ſubjects of both nations may load their ſhips with any 'kind of merchandize, paying the ſame cuſtom as other nations do: 'and, in caſe of fraud in paying the duties, their goods ſhall be for-'feited; but without any other puniſhment.

'VI) If any more warlike ſtores ſhall be found on board any Britiſh ſhip than ſhall be neceſſary for the uſe of the ſhip or paſſengers, 'it ſhall be lawful to ſeize the ſame; but neither ſhip nor effects ſhall 'be liable to be detained.

'VII) In caſe of ſhipwreck, all manner of aſſiſtance ſhall be given, 'without offering the leaſt violence to the ſhip's company or effects.

'VIII) The ſubjects on both ſides may build houſes, and diſpoſe of 'them, without being liable to furniſh quarters for ſoldiers. And paſſ-'ports ſhall be granted to thoſe who ſhall think fit to retire, within two 'months after they notify their intention of going away.

'IX) The Britiſh merchants in Ruſſia ſhall not be obliged to ſhow 'their books to any one whatſoever, except it be to prove ſomething 'in diſpute. And, for the greater eaſe and encouragement of the 'Britiſh commerce, it is agreed, that for the future the Engliſh manu-'factures ſhall pay no greater duty on importation than is ſpecified.

'This treaty is to be in force for fifteen years from the date hereof, 'the 2d of December 1734.'

The rents of the eſtates, forfeited by the attainder of the earl of Derwentwater, were appropriated by parliament for completing the erection of Greenwich hoſpital, and afterwards for the better maintenance of the ſeamen therein, who are worn out, or have become decrepit in the ſervice of their country. All ſeamen in the merchants ſervice, who happen to be maimed, not only (as in a former act) in fighting againſt pirates, but alſo in fighting againſt any enemy whatſoever of his majeſty, are admitted into, and provided for, in the hoſpital, in like manner as any ſeamen maimed, wounded, or diſabled in the king's actual ſervice. [8 *Geo. II, c.* 29]. This is truely a noble application of thoſe eſtates, very much to the nation's honour, and to the encouragement and comfort of our poor worn-out mariners *.

We have the following curious piece of intelligence from the anonymous author of an ingenious pamphlet publiſhed in Ireland, entitled the Queriſt. He affirms for certain, 'that the ſingle port of Cork ex-'ported this year 107,161 barrels of beef, 7379 barrels of pork, 13,461 'caſks and 85,727 firkins of butter. A prodigious quantity of provi-'ſions truely; while half the people of Ireland are ſtarving for want 'of manufactures and tillage, paſturage employing ſo much fewer people 'than any other national employment.' This is a pregnant inſtance of the great trade of the city of Cork, which has long been famous

* This good law was further explained and amended by a ſtatute, 11 *Geo. II, c.* 30. *A.*

for that particular branch of commerce. Since this author wrote, the linen and cambric manufactures of Ireland are very much increaſed in the province of Ulſter, where the linen manufacture began, and are faſt ſpreading over a great part of the other three provinces.

From Paris we received the following account of the chriſtenings, marriages, and burials (uſually ſtiled the bills of mortality), of that great city, for the years 1733 and 1734, viz.

	Chriſtened.	Married.	Buried.
1733	17,825	4132	17,406
1734	19,835	4130	15,122
			32,528

1736.—In the year 1736, upon Mr. Egede's return from his miſſion in Greenland, he obtained a miſſion-college to be eſtabliſhed at Copenhagen (according to Dr. Buſching's New geography) for ſending miſſionaries thither to convert the natives. And the trade from Denmark to Greenland, according to him, is at preſent carried on by a company at Copenhagen, who ſend thither three or four ſhips annually. Dr. Buſching's Geography (publiſhed in Engliſh in 1762) likewiſe acquaints us of three or four chriſtian miſſions then ſettled there, and of four Daniſh colonies now exiſting there; and alſo of a Moravian colony and congregation, now (1761) grown ſo conſiderable as to equal all the four Daniſh ones.

The pope having, as already related, made the port of Ancona on the Adriatic ſhore a free port, the republic of Venice, by way of precaution, and, after much deliberation, agreed to make their capital city of Venice likewiſe a free port, to the great joy of their merchants. By their new regulation, no cargo of merchandize was to pay any more than one ducat at entrance, and half a ducat upon exportation, whereby the merchants were thenceforth to be exempted from all that ſlaviſh attendance and dependance upon commiſſioners and cuſtom-houſe officers, and the charges neceſſarily attending the ſame, which ſo much embarraſſed the commerce of this ſtate, and of the merchants of other nations trading thither.

The parliament paſſed an act [9 *Geo. II, c.* 29] for building a bridge over the river Thames, from New-palace-yard (or the Wool-ſtaple) in the city of Weſtminſter to the oppoſite ſhore in the county of Surrey. This noble ſtructure, hitherto the moſt beautiful and uniform ſtone bridge in all Europe, its vaſt magnitude conſidered, by the parliament's bounty in granting ſeveral lotteries, and at different times ſeveral ſums of money for it, was at length completed, much to the honour of the nation, the conveniency of inland commerce, and the accommodation of all ranks of people. The ſeveral ſtatutes made concerning it likewiſe provided for the removal of many old and decayed houſes, and

the erection of the three noble and ſpacious new ſtreets named Bridge ſtreet, Parliament ſtreet, and George ſtreet, beſides adorning the Palace-yards, &c. greatly to the embelliſhment of the city of Weſtminſter, which, inſtead of its former dirty and narrow ſtreets, now lifts up its head with grandeur and majeſty on every ſide.

The long diſpute between the king of Denmark and the free imperial city and republic of Hamburgh was at length adjuſted this year, and, as uſual, to the diſadvantage of the weakeſt, on the terms following, viz. 1ſt, That the Hamburghers ſhall pay his Daniſh majeſty, once for all, half a million of Daniſh crowns *. 2dly, That they ſhall in a year's time aboliſh their bank current; whereupon the money of Denmark ſhall be on the ſame footing with that of Hamburgh. 3dly, That the merchants and artificers dwelling in the quarter or ward of Schawmberg at Hamburgh, and who are ſubjects of his Daniſh majeſty, ſhall not be ſubject to the juriſdiction of the city of Hamburgh, and ſhall not pay the ſame poll-taxes as the other inhabitants of that city do; neither ſhall Daniſh military officers of rank, living at Hamburgh, be ſubject to its juriſdiction, nor the office of the royal poſts eſtabliſhed there. 4thly, That the commerce of Hamburgh with the Daniſh dominions ſhall be reſtored, and put upon its former footing: the king of Denmark, at the ſame time, cauſing all the ſhips and effects of the Hamburghers, which he had ſeized, to be releaſed. 5thly, Juſtice ſhall be done to the creditors of bankrupts of Hamburgh taking refuge at Altena, or other parts of Denmark. 6thly, The rights of the Hamburghers, concerning veſſels that may chance to be wrecked on the Daniſh coaſts, ſhall receive no prejudice.

Mr. Drake, in his Hiſtory and antiquities of York (publiſhed in 1736), has ſupplied us with the following notices of that city.

1ſt, There are 42 gentlemen's coaches, 22 hackney coaches, and the like number of hackney chairs, in full employment in the city.

2dly, A medium of ſeven years births and burials, from 1728 to 1735, is 398 births and 495 burials per annum. And, as York is deemed a healthful place, we ſhall ſuppoſe that only 1 in 33 of its inhabitants die annually; ſo that the number of ſouls in the city and ſuburbs of York may be eſtimated at 16,335.

3dly, York, within its gates, is two miles and almoſt three quarters in circuit, as ſurveyed in the year 1664. And, in his notes, he adds, that the city of London is very little bigger within its walls, being but barely three miles in circumference; yet the later probably contains ſix times as many inhabitants as York does, owing to the many more void ſpaces in York than in London.

It was at this time computed that the Portugueſe in Brazil produced

* How often have ſuch *once for alls* been repeated? *A.*

67,600 cheſts of ſugar, each of 12 hundred-weight; in all, 811,200 hundred-weight of that commodity. The Portugueſe ſtill ſupply Spain, ſundry parts of the Mediterranean coaſt, Holland, and Hamburgh, with a conſiderable quantity of ſugar, as they formerly did England and France, till they laid 10 per cent additional impoſt on their ſugars, and till the two later nations had well cultivated their own ſugar colonies.

The Dutch are ſaid to produce uſually between 30,000 and 40,000 hogſheads of ſugar annually at the colony of Surinam; and they are of late improving their plantations of Barbecies and Iſequebe, adjoining to Surinam on the continent of South-America. The Dutch alſo frequently import ſugars from Eaſt-India, and ſome alſo from their own iſles of Euſtatia and Curaçoa.

By an act of parliament [9 *Geo. II, c.* 34] for enabling his majeſty to borrow any ſum of money not exceeding L600,000, to be charged on the ſinking fund, &c. one million was paid off on the new joint ſtock of South-ſea annuities, from chriſtmas 1736; which amounted to L9: 2*ſ* per cent, written off from each proprietor's account, excluſive of fractions.

In the ſame ſeſſion an act paſſed to reſtrain the diſpoſition of lands, whereby the ſame become unalienable. The preamble to this new mortmain law ſets forth, that 'whereas gifts, or alienations of lands, 'tenements, or hereditaments, in mortmain, are prohibited or reſtrained 'by magna charta, and by divers other wholeſome laws, as prejudicial 'to, and againſt the common utility; nevertheleſs, this public miſchief 'has of late greatly increaſed, by many large and improvident aliena-'tions or diſpoſitions made by languiſhing or dying perſons, or by other 'perſons, to uſes called charitable, to take place after their deaths, to 'the diſheriſon of their lawful heirs: for remedy whereof, be it enact-'ed, that no manors, lands, tenements, rents, advowſons, or other he-'reditaments, corporeal or incorporeal whatſoever, nor any ſum or 'ſums of money, goods, chattels, ſtocks in the public funds, ſecurities 'for money, or any other perſonal eſtate whatſoever, to be laid out or 'diſpoſed of in the purchaſe of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, 'ſhall be given, granted, alienated, limited, releaſed, transferred, aſſign-'ed, or appointed, or any way conveyed, or ſettled to, or upon, any per-'ſon or perſons, bodies politic or corporate, or otherwiſe, for any eſtate 'or intereſt whatſoever, or any ways charged or encumbered by any 'perſon or perſons whatſoever, in truſt, or for the benefit of, any cha-'ritable uſes whatſoever; unleſs ſuch gift, conveyance, appointment, or 'ſettlement, of any ſuch lands, tenements, perſonal eſtate, money, &c. '(other than ſtocks in the public funds), be made by deed, indented, 'ſealed, and delivered, in the preſence of two or more creditable wit-'neſſes, twelve calendar months at leaſt before the death of ſuch donor 'or granter (including the days of the execution and death), and be

' inrolled in his majeſty's high court of chancery, within ſix calendar ' months next after the execution thereof, and unleſs ſuch ſtocks be ' transferred in the public books uſually kept for the transfer of ſtocks, ' ſix kalendar months at leaſt before the death of ſuch donor or granter; ' and unleſs the ſame be made to take effect in poſſeſſion for the charit- ' able uſe intended immediately from the making thereof, and be with- ' out any power of revocation, reſervation, truſt, condition, limitation, ' clauſe, or agreement, whatſoever, for the benefit of the donor or ' granter, or of any claiming under him. Provided, that the ſaid li- ' mitations ſhall extend to purchaſes or transfers made hereafter for va- ' luable conſiderations. And all ſuch gifts, grants, conveyances, &c. ' made after midſummer 1736, otherwiſe than herein directed, ſhall be ' abſolutely void. Provided, that nothing in this act ſhall be conſtrued ' to extend to make void diſpoſitions of lands, tenements, or heredita- ' ments, or of perſonal eſtate, to be laid out in the purchaſe of ſuch ' lands, &c. which ſhall be made in any other form than by this act di- ' rected, to, or in truſt for, either of the two Engliſh univerſities, and ' their reſpective colleges or houſes of learning, or for the colleges of ' Eton, Winchester, or Weſtminſter, for the better ſupport and main- ' tenance of the ſcholars only upon the foundation of the laſt-named ' three colleges. Provided, nevertheleſs, that no ſuch college, or houſe ' of learning, which doth, or ſhall, hold ſo many advowſons of eccle- ' ſiaſtical benefits as are, or ſhall be, equal in number to half the num- ' ber of their fellows (or where there are no fellows, to half the num- ' ber of their ſtudents upon the foundation) ſhall, from midſummer ' 1736, be capable of purchaſing, taking, or otherwiſe holding, any ' other advowſons, by any means whatever; ſuch advowſons as are an- ' nexed to the headſhips of colleges not being computed in the number ' hereby limited. This act ſhall not extend to Scotland.' [9 *Geo. II*, *c.* 36.]

Several ſocieties petitioned to be excepted out of this bill, particularly the corporation for the ſons of the clergy, that for Queen Anne's bounty, the grey-coat hoſpital in Weſtminſter, and the truſtees for the charity-ſchools of London, Weſtminſter, and Southwark. But they were rejected.

Notwithſtanding the very ill ſucceſs of the late whale fiſhery of the South-ſea company for eight years together, yet this year one ſhip, belonging to private adventurers, brought home to London no fewer than ſeven whales; and 130 Dutch ſhips were ſaid to have caught this ſame year 600 whales. So precarious is whale-fiſhing in the frozen and terrible ſeas of Spitſbergen, &c.

Advices were received this year from Carolina, that the French of Miſſiſippi were making war, jointly with their own Indians, on a nation of Indians, called Chickaſaws, dependent on Carolina. Their plan was

now ſeen to be to hem in all our ſettlements on the eaſt coaſts of North-America by forts, all along the river Miſſiſippi, as far up as Canada, and thereby to exclude the Engliſh from any commerce with the numerous nations of Indians weſt of our colonies; of which plan Dr. D'Avenant gave public warning ſo early as the year 1698: yet even now the ſcales did not fall from our eyes. It ſeems the French had got together 2500 white men on Mobile river, on which they built a fort with an intent to invade Carolina; but the advice of peace between the French and us obliged them to diſſemble that deſign, and our Chickaſaws proved too hard in the end for their Indian allies.

For two years paſt the general courts of the South-ſea company had fruitleſs debates concerning an equivalent propoſed by Geraldino, the Spaniſh agent with that company, in lieu of their annual ſhip, which ſeemed calculated to amuſe the company, and to delay the Spaniſh cedula, or permiſſion, for ſending out their annual ſhip, without any ſerious intention to give the company due ſatisfaction. On the 11th of Auguſt 1736 the general court took that matter again into conſideration, after much had been printed in newſpapers, by way of letters, for and againſt the equivalent, and alſo for the company's farming their introduction of negroes into particular parts of the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, viz. to Vera Cruz, Campeachy, Guatimala, &c. and the ſeveral demands made by Geraldino before a cedula could be granted: but it being obſerved in this general court, that the court of directors were better acquainted with the ſecret ſprings of thoſe points, it was finally reſolved, 'that the ſeveral matters relating to diſpatching an annual ſhip, 'to the payment demanded by the king of Spain of a quarter of the 'profits made by the ſhip Royal-Caroline, and the value of the dollars 'payable for the negro duties, be referred to the court of directors, to 'do therein as they ſhould think moſt for the intereſt of the company.'

This year an account was laid before the houſe of commons of the corn exported from England between chriſtmas 1734 and chriſtmas 1735, with the bounty paid thereon, viz.

57,520 quarters of barley, bounty L7190; 219,781 quarters of malt, bounty L26,434; 1920 quarters of oat-meal, bounty L240; 1329 quarters of rye, bounty L232; 153,343 quarters of wheat, bounty L38,335; total quarters, 433,893; total bounties, L72,433.

A fleet of 27 ſail arrived this year at Liſbon from Pernambuco in Brazil, the cargo whereof was,

In money, 1,300,000 cruſados for the merchants; 200,000 cruſados for the king.

4 octaves of diamonds.

6294 cheſts of ſugar, and 700 ſmall cheſts ditto.

8600 rolls of tobacco.

84,900 half hides, and 13,000 whole hides, in the hair.

11,000 hundred-weight of Brazil wood.

450 hundred-weight of violetta wood.

1737.—The French at this time were eagerly puſhing into an an univerſal commerce, as the ſurer, though ſlower, way of coming at their old darling ſcheme of univerſal dominion, viz.

In Africa they monopolized the gum trade at the river Senegal; they had alſo encroached on the Engliſh ſettlement at the river Gambia, and had largely increaſed their ſlave-trade on that coaſt for the encouragement of their Weſt-India ſugar iſlands: where

They had at this time gained ſo much ground on ours as to be the great exporters of ſugar, and alſo of indigo, cotton, and ginger, to many parts of Europe. They had alſo gained a conſiderable ſettlement on the coaſt of Guiana, near Surinam in South-America, encroaching both on the Dutch and Spaniards there. On the continent of North-America, they now aſſiduouſly purſued old Louis's plan of forming a chain of forts and ſettlements from the mouth of the great river Miſſiſippi up to their province of Canada, thereby to cut off our continental ſettlements from any commerce with the vaſt Indian countries weſtward, and in time to get poſſeſſion of them all. For that end they had ſtrongly fortified the iſland of Cape-Breton, at the entrance of the great river St. Laurence, ſerving as well to command that entrance as to protect a very great cod fiſhery, which they have of late ſo vaſtly increaſed in the neighbouring ſeas.

From Quebec, their capital of Canada, they had opened and fortified a communication with the lakes lying behind, and properly as much belonging to our province of New-York as any other part of that province can be ſaid to be; and had alſo taken poſſeſſion of the fertile lands round thoſe lakes, much of which they had already cleared, and in part cultivated, where they had plentiful crops of wheat; and had alſo found lead mines, which farther enabled them to improve their trade with the neighbouring Indians; and (by already endeavouring to remove ſuch Indian nations from the neighbourhood of the river Miſſiſippi as might endanger its navigation) deſigning to carry their wheat, &c. down that vaſt ſtream to New-Orleans, their Miſſiſippi capital, from thence to ſupply their ſugar colonies therewith, poſſibly cheaper than our northern plantations can at preſent do. They had alſo planted tobacco in that country, and had begun to ſaw timber for lumber, with a like view to a trade from thence with their ſugar iſlands. Weſtward they were ſaid to have already extended their communication as far as the Spaniſh province of New-Mexico, caſting, no doubt, a longing eye on the rich ſilver mines there. Eaſtward from the Miſſiſippi, they had by this time ſettled ſo far up the river Albanus as to have forts on it within twenty days march of Charleſtown, our capital of South-Carolina. Of all which vaſt improvements and encroachments on the territories of other nations,

and more eſpecially of our own, authentic accounts were laid before our government and our board of trade; yet no effectual regard was ſhewn thereto: neither did the court of Spain ſeem more to regard their encroachments in the Miſſiſippi country, and on their province of Florida, nor even their more dangerous one towards New-Mexico. In the Eaſt-India commerce alſo France had by this time greatly increaſed, even beyond belief, without being duely regarded by ſuch who might in the beginning have ruined it and moſt of the above encroachments, had vigorous meaſures been in due time taken.

All theſe particulars we have here judged fit to be laid together before our readers at one ſummary view, in order the better to illuſtrate and explain what may hereafter fall in our way in reſpect to France's all-graſping deſigns for univerſal commerce as well as dominion. In treating of theſe, and ſundry other points, it will be impoſſible to avoid obſcurity, without a brief repetition of ſome things previouſly handled in other parts of our work: and though, by our late amazing ſucceſs againſt the French colonies in America, matters are ſince greatly changed, yet the ſteps taken by that nation are well worth tracing as mementos for futurity.

There was at this time much ſaid in pamphlets and newſpapers in favour of the importation of iron and hemp from the Britiſh American colonies, as being two articles of the firſt importance for our navy and mercantile ſhipping, as well as for numberleſs other ſervices; and petitions were preſented to parliament for this end by the merchants.

1ſt, It was computed that England imported annually about 20,000 tons of foreign iron, whereof 15,000 tons were from Sweden, which coſt about L150,000, moſtly paid by us in money, as are moſt of the other 5000 tons brought from Ruſſia; and that our exports of wrought iron are from 3000 to 3500 tons per annum.

2dly, That the iron of the Britiſh colonies is as good as any foreign iron whatever, and, with proper encouragement, might be imported in quantities ſufficient to ſupply all the iron we get from thoſe two nations, on whom we are at preſent dependent for that commodity, without their taking ſufficient of our product and manufactures in return; whereas our own colonies would be entirely paid by our manufactures, the demand for which would thereby be much increaſed, and thereby about L180,000 per annum would be clearly ſaved to the nation in the balance of our trade. It was, moreover, computed that England makes annually at home about 18,000 tons of bar-iron, the quantity of which, it was ſaid, we could not increaſe, by reaſon of our woods being ſo far exhauſted as to have greatly enhanced the price of cord-wood uſed in the refining of iron-ſtone: and were we to import more pig-iron from America, and make leſs of it at home, we ſhould be able, with the ſame

quantity of wood we now conſume, to make much more bar-iron at home.

3dly, That nothing is more likely to prevent our American colonies from falling into ſuch manufactures as muſt interfere with our own manufactures of iron, &c. than giving them encouragements to raiſe ſuch rough materials as pig, ſow, and bar, iron, hemp, &c. as it is well known of what great advantage to this kingdom the bounties on the importation of pitch and tar from thence have been ſince the year 1703.

4thly, That, for this end, a duty ſhould be laid in our colonies on all iron imported there from Europe; and that, had the like been done in regard to prohibiting the importation of hemp from Europe into our colonies, the bounty now ſubſiſting on American hemp would have, by this time, proved more effectual for ſupplying us from thence with all the hemp we want.

On the other hand, the great and natural oppoſers to the merchants petitions were the proprietors of the Engliſh iron works, and thoſe of the woodlands of England; but where particular intereſt alone is ſo ſtrongly concerned againſt ſo viſible a national benefit, that oppoſition ſeemed then not to be much regarded by impartial men, at leaſt without doors. In fine, the promoters of this ſcheme, for encouraging the importation of iron from our American colonies, propoſed, that an additional duty ſhould be laid on all foreign bar-iron imported, excepting only ſuch as ſhall be imported from our American colonies; and to repeal the preſent foreign duty on all bar-iron which may be hereafter imported from our plantations: yet ſo many jarring intereſts prevented the legiſlature from doing any thing at this time therein.

In November 1737 the Jamaica merchants petitioned the king for protection againſt the great and violent interruptions and ſeizures committed by Spaniſh ſhips in the American ſeas, under the plauſible pretences of guarding their own coaſts, by not only ſtopping and ſearching, but alſo, for many years paſt, forcibly and arbitrarily ſeizing, their ſhips on the high ſeas, inhumanly treating the Britiſh commanders and ſailors, and condemning our ſhips and cargoes as prizes, in manifeſt violation of ſolemn treaties between Great Britain and Spain, whereby the trade to his majeſty's plantations in America is rendered extremely precarious; humbly praying, therefor, ſpeedy and ample ſatisfaction for thoſe loſſes; and that no Britiſh veſſel be detained or ſearched on the high ſeas by any nation, under any pretence whatſoever; and that the trade to America may be rendered ſafe for the future. The king promiſed them redreſs, upon their making good their allegations to the privy council, which they afterward plainly did. And here we muſt obſerve, that whereas, by the treaty of 1670 with Spain our ſhips are not to reſort, nor trade to, the coaſts of New Spain and its adjoining Spaniſh provinces, unleſs driven thither by ſtreſs of weather, their ſail-

ing near to thoſe ſhores renders them liable to be ſuſpected of carrying on a contraband trade with thoſe American provinces of Spain, the trade to which is abſolutely and moſt ſtrictly confined to Spaniards ſolely. And there is ſcarcely any doubt that our ſloops, &c. from Jamaica, and ſome other Britiſh colonies, ſometimes run the hazard for the ſake of gain, and therefor ought to ſubmit to the conſequences. So, on the other hand, it is notorious, that the Spaniſh guarda-coſtas (or guard ſhips) frequently exceeded their commiſſions, by ſearching, plundering, and often ſeizing, Britiſh ſhips ſailing on the American ſeas, even though not ſo near their ſhores as to give any ſuſpicion of clandeſtine trade, and though not loaded with the produce of the Spaniſh-American provinces; but only perhaps having a few Spaniſh pieces of eight, or a ſmall parcel of logwood, or other Spaniſh-American merchandize, found in ſuch ſhips, the firſt being the only coin in our iſland of Jamaica, and the two laſt the produce of that iſland. In ſhort, theſe mutual complaints in a few years brought on the war between Great Britain and Spain; and although the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in the year 1748, ſeemed to terminate that affair, yet it was but barely to ſeem to do it; and a new and more diſtinct or explicit treaty ſeems ſtill to be wanting, if intended by either party, for that point, and alſo for our logwood trade in the bay of Campeachy. To theſe complaints of our merchants an anſwer was indeed given in June 1738 by the court of Spain, wherein moſt of the grievances and violences were promiſed to be redreſſed; and the reſt were referred to the inquiry of the Spaniſh governors in America, who were very incompetent judges thereof, as being parties to many of thoſe violences, and many of them privately partners in the guarda-coſtas. And thus it remained, till repeated injuries obliged his Britannic majeſty to declare war againſt Spain, after having in vain tried by an amicable convention, in the year 1739, to preſerve peace.

There were chriſtened in London in the year 1737, 16,760 ſouls; buried 27,823. Increaſed in the burials this year 242.

1738.—One million of the capital ſtock of the bank of England was paid off, being a moiety, and farther part, of the two millions capital, created by an act of the third year of King George I. So that the capital ſtock of the bank of England was hereby reduced to L3,875,027 : 17 : 10, L500,000, other part of the ſaid two millions having been paid off by an act of the firſt year of King George II, for granting an aid to his majeſty, by ſale of annuities to the bank, &c.

Sir William Keith, (in his *Hiſtory of Virginia, p.* 174, *publiſhed in* 1738) gives the following account of the revenue of that colony, as it then ſtood, and is eſtabliſhed by acts of their aſſemblies, viz.

'The annual receipt of quit-rents, at 2*ſ* ſterling per 100 acres, being 'the revenue of the crown, paid into the receipt of the king's pri-

'vate exchequer, is an increaſing fund, amounting at preſent to 'about - - - - - - - L3500

'Two ſhillings ſterling per hogſhead on tobacco exported (at 'a medium of 32,000 hogſheads) per annum, - - 3200

'Out of which (alſo increaſing) tax, is paid the governor's ſa- 'lary of L.2000 per annum.

'One ſhilling ſterling per ton on 10,000 tons of ſhipping 'yearly, - - - - 500

'The eſtabliſhed fees for marriage licences, probates of wills, 'and entering and clearing ſhips (together with other legal per- 'quiſites belonging to the governor reſiding there) is, per an- 'num, - - - - 600

L7800

It is more than probable that, ſince that time, all theſe articles are conſiderably increaſed.

There were imported into the port of London, on the 23d of October 1738, 151,219 yards of linen, manufactured in Scotland, and alſo 3000 ſpindles of linen yarn. Such large entries of the linen manufacture, both from Scotland and Ireland, of late, every year increaſing, merit the higheſt encouragement, as they do not only uſefully employ our own people, and better enable them to pay taxes, exciſe, &c. and to conſume more of the product of the country, but which is of very great importance in the general balance of our commerce, as their linen manufactures ſhall gradually increaſe, the importation of foreign linen muſt neceſſarily decreaſe in a ſimilar proportion.

By the London bill of mortality for the year 1738, there were chriſtened 16,060; buried 25,825. Decreaſed in the burials this year 1998.

It is not ſo eaſy as ſome have pretended to account for the large mortality bills of London, in this, and ſome preceding years, compared with much later years, while no extraordinary ſickneſs happened, and while, at the ſame time, great additions were conſtantly making to the buildings in its ſuburbs. The beſt reaſons uſually given for the late decreaſe of its mortality bills, are, 1ſt, the many hoſpitals ſince erected for ſick perſons, whereby, and by the ſmall-pox hoſpitals, many lives are, probably, preſerved, which, without them, would have been loſt; 2dly, many private dwelling-houſes, in many parts within the city of London, are, from the very viſible increaſe of our commerce, pulled down and turned into warehouſes for merchandize, whereby the number of houſeholders is ſenſibly decreaſed within the lord mayor's juriſdiction; but this, we doubt, will ſcarcely be admitted as any good reaſon for the general decreaſe of the burials, unleſs it appeared that thoſe houſeholders had removed from within the limits of the general bills of

mortality; 3dly, the late wars in Germany and America have undoubtedly carried away ſome thouſands of our lower people, vagrants, &c.; laſtly, it is much to be ſuſpected, as elſewhere noted, that the company of pariſh-clerks of London, either have not ſufficient powers by law, or elſe do not exert thoſe powers, for enabling them to be more exact in their weekly bills.

1739.—We have already briefly related the barbarous and illegal captures of our Britiſh merchant ſhips on the high ſeas of America by the Spaniſh guarda-coſtas, or veſſels pretending to be ſuch. Thoſe grievances were loudly complained of by our merchants, and the houſe of commons addreſſed the king for obtaining due ſatisfaction of the court of Spain. Moreover, the Britiſh houſe of peers came to the following reſolution, viz. that the Spaniards ſearching our ſhips on the open ſeas, under pretence of their carrying contraband or prohibited goods, is a violation of the treaties ſubſiſting between the two crowns. Hereupon, the ſtrongeſt remonſtrances being made to the Spaniſh court, the king acquainted his parliament, that he had concluded a preliminary convention with Spain, ſtipulating, in ſubſtance,

'1ſt, That immediately after the ſigning thereof, two plenipotentiaries on each ſide ſhould meet at Madrid, finally to regulate the reſpective pretenſions of the two crowns.

'2dly, Until the limits of Florida and Carolina can be adjuſted, things ſhall remain there in their preſent ſituation.

'3dly, His catholic majeſty ſhall cauſe to be paid to his Britannic majeſty L95,000 ſterling, as a balance admitted to be due to the crown and ſubjects of Great Britain, after deduction made of the demands of the crown and ſubjects of Spain, to the end that the above-mentioned ſum, together with the amount of what has been acknowleged on the part of Great Britain to be due to Spain on her demands, may be employed by his Britannic majeſty for the ſatisfaction and payment of the demands of his ſubjects upon the crown of Spain. But this reciprocal diſcharge ſhall not relate nor extend to the differences ſubſiſting between the crown of Spain and the South-ſea company, nor to any particular or private contracts between either of the two crowns, or their miniſters, with the ſubjects of the other, or between the ſubjects of the one crown with thoſe of the other.

'4thly, If it ſhall happen that, in conſequence of orders diſpatched by the court of Spain, any part of the value of certain ſhips taken from the Engliſh, and included in the foreſaid L95,000, be already paid, the ſame ſhall be deducted thereout.

'1ſt ſeparate article. The ſaid L95,000 ſhall be paid by his catholic majeſty at London, within four months after the ratification of this convention.

'2d ſeparate article. The 3d article ſhall not extend to ſhips taken

'since the 10th of December 1737; in which cases justice shall be 'done according to the treaties, as if this convention had not been 'made. It being however understood, that this relates only to the in- 'demnification and satisfaction to be made for the effects seized, or 'prizes taken; but that the decision of the cases which may happen, 'in order to remove all pretext for dispute, is to be referred to the ple- 'nipotentiaries to be determined according to the treaties.'

This is the substance of a convention, which made so much noise, and gave so much disgust in England. What gave the greatest disgust of all, was the king of Spain's following declaration and protest, which he insisted on as a preliminary condition of his ratifying the above convention, viz. that he reserves to himself, in its full force, the right of being able to suspend the assiento for negroes, and of dispatching the necessary orders for the execution thereof, in case the South-sea company do not subject themselves to pay, within a short term, the sum of L68,000 sterling, which they acknowleged to be due on the duty for negroes, according to the regulation of 52*d* per dollar, and on the profits of the ship Royal Caroline; and farther declares, that under the validity and force of this protest, the signing of the said convention may be proceeded on, and in no other manner.

The injustice of this previous demand on the company was so apparent, that the general court on the 1st of March resolved not to pay the same, without the king of Spain's coming to a just account with them for all the seizures and captures of their ships and merchandize, which he had by former agreements engaged to refund to them, viz.

I) On our rupture with Spain in the year 1718 the king of Spain seized on all the company's effects in every part of his dominions, amounting to about one million of dollars, or nearly, in sterling money, to L225,000; whilst the company's factories were kept up at La Vera Cruz, Panama, Porto-Bello, Carthagena, and Buenos-Ayres; and two agents at Madrid; all which was a very great expense. This sum the king of Spain engaged to make good to the company by the treaty of the year 1721.

II) The king of Spain having in 1727 besieged Gibraltar, he again seized on every thing belonging to the South-sea company, amounting to about half a million of dollars, or L122,000.

Yet in the treaty of that same year he promised not only to restore this last seizure, but also the preceding one of the year 1718; though all that was ever received was but a mere trifle, compared to their whole loss. Now, those confiscations were the more unjust, as being expressly contrary to the assiento contract; wherein it is stipulated, that whatever differences may arise between the two crowns, the company shall be always allowed eighteen months for the removal of their effects. The company has also farther demands on the king of Spain: for instance,

1ſt, their juſt claim on him, for one fourth part of all their loſſes ſuſtained in trade; as by the aſſiento contract he was to be a quarter-part ſharer in their profits.

2dly, The king of Spain ought to make good the loſs the South-ſea company has ſuſtained by his frequent refuſal of their annual ſhip, as well as by the number of ſuch annual ſhips ſhort of what they ſhould have been allowed by the aſſiento contract.

3dly, The company has yet farther demands to make, whenever a treaty ſhall be ſet on foot: but, in the meantime, theſe conſiderations are more than ſufficient to juſtify their proceedings, and to demonſtrate that the court of Spain was never diſpoſed in earneſt to do juſtice to our injured people. For the king of Spain did not only ſuffer the four months to elapſe, within which time he was to pay the L95,000, on the pretext of the South-ſea company's failure of paying his demand of L68,000; but, inſtead of fulfilling the convention, he ſeized the ſhips and goods of his majeſty's ſubjects wherever they could be found, in his dominions or elſewhere; and alſo ordered all the Britiſh ſubjects in his dominions to depart in a ſhorter time than allowed by treaties. Whereupon Geraldino, his envoy extraordinary, and Terry, his agent at London for the aſſiento contract, were obliged to leave the kingdom. And his Britannic majeſty on the 23d of October 1739 declared war againſt Spain, for maintaining the honour of his crown and kingdom, and for obtaining redreſs to his much injured merchants and traders, who from all parts of the kingdom made earneſt petitions for relief. It was indeed high time for our government to take this ſtep, (though with more than ſeeming reluctance) for the violences and inſolence of the Spaniards in America were become abſolutely intolerable, principally owing to our own ſhamefully puſillanimous temporizing at any rate, rather than reſolutely doing ourſelves juſtice by force of arms; they more than ever perſiſting in ſearching and ſeizing Britiſh ſhips, and putting their commanders into irons and priſons, their detaining the South-ſea company's ſhips, and locking up of that company's warehouſes at Porto-Bello, Carthagena, Havanna, &c.

It was thought, that taking off the duties upon woollen or bay yarn, imported from Ireland, might be a 'means to prevent the exportation of 'wool, and of woollen manufactures, from Ireland to foreign parts, and 'alſo be of uſe to the manufacturers of Great Britain;' and parliament therefor enacted, that 'from the 1ſt of May 1740, the ſame ſhould be no 'longer payable; excepting only the duties upon worſted-yarn of two or 'more threads, twiſted or thrown, or on cruel, imported from Ireland. 'And whereas, notwithſtanding the ſeveral laws for preventing the ex-'portation of wool unmanufactured from Britain and Ireland to foreign 'parts, ſuch exportation was notoriouſly continued; for farther preven-'tion thereof, it was enacted, that all wool, woollen or bay yarn, woolfels,

'shortlings, mortlings, woolflocks, worsted-yarn, cloth, serge, bays, 'kersies, says, frises, druggets, cloth-serges, shalloons, stuffs, and other 'draperies, or stuffs mixed with wool or woolflocks; which shall from 'time to time be exported from Ireland into the ports of this kingdom 'hereafter mentioned, shall be shipped off and entered at the ports of 'Dublin, Waterford, Youghal, Kingsale, Cork, Drogheda, New-Ross, 'Newry, Wexford, Wicklow, Sligo, Limerick, Galway, and Dundalk, 'and from no other part of Ireland whatever. Nor to any other ports 'of Britain but to Biddiford, Barnstaple, Minehead, Bridgewater, Bris-'tol, Milford-haven, Chester, and Liverpool; and in vessels only of the 'built of Great Britain or Ireland, and duely registered upon oath.' With sundry other clauses for preventing frauds, needless here to be particularized. [12 *Geo. II, c.* 21.]

Upon this subject, the author of Considerations now laid before the British parliament, relating to the running of wool, thinks it highly probable, 'that more than 1,500,000 people are employed in our British 'woollen manufacture; and if these earn, one with another, sixpence per 'day for 313 working days in the year, it will amount to £11,737,500.' Which is rightly computed, and demonstrates the immense benefit of this manufacture.

The French having gradually gained the ascendant over us in supplying the European market with sugars, by being permitted to carry them directly from their own sugar islands to foreign parts, without being first landed in France, liberty was therefor granted to carry sugars of the growth, produce, or manufacture, of any British sugar colonies in America, from the said colonies directly to foreign parts southward of Cape Finisterre, in ships built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law; the major part of the proprietors of which ships shall, upon oath, be residing in Great Britain, and the residue in the British sugar islands, and not elsewhere, and cleared out from Great Britain, or the British sugar islands, on certain conditions therein specified. [12 *Geo. II, c.* 30.] The French had the start of us in this prudent regulation, by at least twelve years, as appears by their edicts of the years 1726 and 1727.

In consequence of a statute for laying a duty on the tonnage of all ships belonging or trading to or from the port of Liverpool, for making a dock, piers, &c. for that port, we have seen a printed list of all the ships belonging to that famous maritime port and town, taken on the first of May 1739: whereby it appeared, that their number from 30 tons and upwards, was 211 ships and vessels, amongst which that year there were 1 of 400 tons; 1 of 350; 1 of 300; 1 of 250; 2 of 240; 2 of 200; 2 of 190; 4 of 180; 7 of 160; 15 of 150; 10 of 140; 5 of 130; 13 of 120; 6 of 110; and 16 of 100 tons each: the rest from

90 tons downward. And though the printing of the number of their ſhips be ſince laid aſide, we are well aſſured that the number of ſhipping of that port is ſince very conſiderably increaſed.

During the year 1738, there arrived at the port of Amſterdam 1813 ſhips of all ſorts. Boyer's Political ſtate for the month of January 1739, (N. S.) from whom that number of ſhips is taken, remarks, 'that the 'Amſterdamers conjecture, that London has double their number of 'ſhips frequenting their port.'

In the ſame year Roterdam had about 500 ſhips entered inwards.

At London in this year 1739 there were chriſtened 16,181: buried 25,432; decreaſed in the burials in this year 393.

There were exported in the year 1739 from South-Carolina, 71,484 barrels of rice; 8095 barrels of pitch; 33 ditto of turpentine; 2734 ditto of tar; 559 hogſheads of deer-ſkins, 1196 looſe ſkins unpacked; Indian corn and peas 20,165 buſhels; pine and cypreſs timber and planks 209,190 feet; cedar boards 3200 feet; ſhingles 42,600 pieces; caſk-ſtaves 56,821; tanned leather 1535 hides; roſin 45 barrels; ſaſſafras 4½ tons; beef and pork 539 barrels; potatoes 790 buſhels. Cleared outward 238 ſhips and veſſels.

1740.—In the year 1740 there was erected in Sweden a board for the encouragement of trade and manufactures, which has proved very advantageous to that nation.

For the better ſupply of ſeamen to ſerve in Britiſh ſhips of war, and alſo onboard merchant ſhips and privateers, and for the better carrying on the preſent war againſt Spain, or any future war, an act was paſſed, 'whereby, during the preſent war, merchant ſhips may be navigated 'by any number of foreign ſeamen, not exceeding three fourths of the 'ſhip's company. And for the better encouragement of foreign ſea-'men to ſerve onboard Britiſh ſhips, either of war, merchant ſhips, or 'privateers, during this war, ſuch foreign ſeamen ſo ſerving for two years, 'ſhall afterward be deemed in all reſpects natural-born ſubjects; provided, 'ſuch foreigner ſhall not thereby be enabled to be of the privy-council, 'or to be a member of either houſe of parliament, or to take any office 'of truſt, civil or military, or to have any grant of lands, &c. from the 'crown to himſelf, or to any other perſon in truſt for him: and the 'king, his heirs, and ſucceſſors, are hereby empowered in any future 'war, by proclamation, during ſuch war, and no longer, to permit the 'like number of foreign ſeamen to ſerve in merchant ſhips or priva-'teers, as well as in ſhips of war.' [13 *Geo. II, c.* 3.] This prudent law was followed by another very wiſe one, in ſundry reſpects reſembling it, for naturalizing ſuch foreign proteſtants, and others therein mentioned, as are ſettled, or ſhall ſettle, in any of his majeſty's colonies in America, the preamble whereof ſets forth, that whereas the increaſe

of people is a means of advancing the wealth and ſtrength of any nation or country: and whereas many foreigners and ſtrangers, from the lenity of our government, the purity of our religion, the benefit of our laws, the advantages of our trade, and the ſecurity of our property, might be induced to come and ſettle in ſome of his majeſty's colonies in America, if they were made partakers of the advantages and privileges which the natural-born ſubjects of this realm enjoy. It was now therefor enacted, that from the firſt day of June 1740, all perſons born out of the liegiance of his majeſty, who ſhall have reſided, or ſhall hereafter reſide, for the ſpace of ſeven years or more, in any of his colonies in America, and ſhall not have been abſent from thence above two months at any one time, and ſhall take the uſual oaths of fidelity; or if quakers, ſhall ſubſcribe the declaration of fidelity, (or if Jews, with the omiſſion of ſome chriſtian expreſſions) and ſhall alſo ſubſcribe the profeſſion of their chriſtian belief, (Jews excepted) as directed by a ſtatute of the 1ſt of William and Mary, (intitled, an act for exempting their majeſties proteſtant ſubjects from the penalties of certain laws) before any judge of the colony they ſhall reſide in, and ſhall have received the ſacrament of the Lord's ſupper, in ſome proteſtant or reformed congregation in Great Britain, or in the ſaid colonies, (quakers and Jews excepted) within three months of his or her ſo qualifying, and producing a certificate thereof, ſigned by the miniſter of the ſaid congregation, atteſted by two witneſſes: a certificate of all which, under the reſpective colony's ſeal, ſhall be a ſufficient proof of his or her being thereby become a natural-born ſubject of Great Britain, to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever. And the ſecretary of each colony ſhall annually tranſmit to the board of trade and plantations, liſts of the ſaid perſons ſo naturalized, to be regiſtered in their office: proviſo, that ſuch perſons ſhall not thereby be enabled to be a privy-counſellor, &c. as in other naturalization ſtatutes. [13 *Geo. II, c.* 7.] The more immediate object of this ſtatute was in favour of ſome thouſands of proteſtants, perſecuted and oppreſſed in Germany, and elſewhere, and alſo in favour of proteſtants from Switzerland, &c. all of whom were before, and about this time, ſettled in the different provinces of the Britiſh continental colonies of America, chiefly on the back parts thereof weſtward.

By a ſtatute for the increaſe of mariners and ſeamen to navigate merchant ſhips, and other trading ſhips and veſſels, it was enacted, ‘ 1ſt, ‘ that all ſeamen of the age of fifty-five years or upwards, and all ſuch ‘ as have not attained the full age of eighteen years, and alſo all foreign‘ ers ſerving in any Britiſh merchant ſhips or privateers, ſhall be ex‘ empted from being impreſſed into his majeſty's ſervice. 2dly, Per‘ ſons of any age, uſing the ſea, ſhall alſo be exempted from being ‘ impreſſed for the firſt two years of their being at ſea; as ſhall like-

'wiſe all ſea-apprentices for the firſt three years of their apprentice-'ſhip.' [13 *Geo. II, c.* 17.]

It was about this time, or perhaps ſomewhat earlier, that the manufacture of tin-plates, or more properly of thin plates of iron tinned over, (which foreigners term white-iron) was brought to ſuch perfection in England, after having been long loſt or neglected, that now very little of it was imported from foreign parts: our own being now made of a finer gloſs or ſkin than that made beyond ſea, the later being hammered, and ours being drawn under a rolling-mill. This improvement is a conſiderable benefit to the nation in the general annual balance of trade; there being a very great quantity of this article conſumed in Britain, Ireland, and the plantations, for a great variety of uſes. And though the duty on foreign tinned-plates is thereby ſunk, yet the employment given to our own manufacturers, and the money kept at home which was formerly paid for this commodity from Hamburgh, greatly over-balances the loſs of the cuſtoms thereon. It was indeed long juſtly wondered at, that England, which had the beſt tin in Europe, and in the greateſt quantity, and had iron enough for the purpoſe, ſhould have ſo long continued to pay ſuch great ſums to foreign nations for what we might long ſince have made of our own.

The bounty of 20*s* per ton on ſhips employed in the whale fiſhery was continued to the 25th of December 1750; and an additional bounty of 10*s* per ton was granted on whale-fiſhing ſhips to continue during the war with Spain only: during which time alſo it was enacted, that no harpooneer, line-manager, boat-ſteerer, or ſeaman, in that fiſhery ſhould be impreſſed from the ſaid ſervice. [13 *Geo. II, c.* 28.] This ſtatute ſhews the ſenſe the legiſlature had of the benefits accruing to the public by the whale fiſhery.

The Turks now began to eſtabliſh regular poſts for the carriage of letters throughout their dominions, after the manner of Chriſtendom, which they hoped would be very advantageous to their commerce, and likewiſe to the ſultan's revenue, greatly impaired by the late wars with the emperor and with Ruſſia.

It appeared by the information of perſons of worth concerned in the two Britiſh tobacco colonies of Virginia and Maryland, that about 200 Britiſh ſhips were annually and conſtantly employed in that trade, viz. about 80 or 90 ſail for Virginia, and about 110 to 120 for Maryland: that the ſhips trading thither from the out-ports of Great Britain were generally of a leſſer burden than were thoſe from the port of London: and that of about 30,000 hogſheads of tobacco, annually imported from thoſe two colonies into Great Britain, 18,000 were brought home in the London ſhips. Alſo that this computation was excluſive of the veſſels employed by thoſe two colonies in their trade with our other Britiſh colonies in America and the Weſt-Indies.

The anonymous author of a pamphlet, intitled the Preſent ſtate of the revenues and forces of France and Spain, compared with thoſe of Great Britain, (8vo, 1740) aſſerts, that in France there were not then more than 600 ſail of merchant ſhips at the moſt, of all ſizes. And that, reckoning 25 ſailors to each, one with another, all the ſeamen of France did not exceed 30,000, including 11,000 ſeamen claſſed by the king, who have leave to ſerve onboard the merchant ſhips till wanted for the king's ſervice. And that, in caſe of a naval war with Britain, France will be obliged to augment her marine to what it was in their former war with England, viz. to 120 ſhips of war and 40 galleys. What this plauſible and ſpirited writer computes might then poſſibly be true; but we have ſince had recent experience, that both their merchant ſhips and ſailors were conſiderably more in number than he then computed them to be.

This year the king, by letters-patent, erected civil and criminal courts of juſtice at his town and port of Gibraltar. How far this regulation has been put in practice ſince this time, or, if at all, how far it may, in time, influence greater numbers of Britiſh ſubjects to ſettle there, we ſhall not venture to gueſs: but, if that ſhould come to be the caſe, the rents of houſes would gradually increaſe, and therewith fines upon entry, acknowlegements for landing goods, as at Leghorn and other free ports, anchorage in the bay, leaſes of ground, ſome moderate taxes on liquors and proviſions conſumed there, and ſuch other benefits which might naturally be expected from a civil government being eſtabliſhed under the mild laws and privileges of a Britiſh conſtitution, which might poſſibly, altogether, produce ſuch a local revenue as might in time eaſe the public of more than L60,000 per annum, which that moſt uſeful and important fort and port coſts the Britiſh nation. Why our expectations in theſe reſpects have not been fully anſwered hitherto, lies properly before a higher tribunal than we ſhall name, whoſe intereſt is ſo nearly concerned therein, and whoſe power as well as inclinations, when proper informations ſhall be laid before them, can undoubtedly rectify whatever ſhall be found to have hitherto been amiſs.

This year the king of Great Britain, who is alſo ſovereign of the town of Staden in the duchy of Bremen, was graciouſly pleaſed entirely to remit to all Britiſh and Iriſh ſhips the antient toll payable at Staden by the ſhips of all nations in ſailing up the river Elbe: for which bounty he received an humble addreſs of thanks from the Britiſh company of merchants-adventurers trading to Hamburgh.

The king of Great Britain having been addreſſed in the preceding year by his parliament, for regulating the currency of the paper money of his American continental colonies, we ſhall here exhibit the value thereof as follows, viz.

New-England, (i. e. principally the Maſſachuſet's-bay) Connecticut, Rhode-iſland, and New-Hampſhire, L525 currency *. For L100 ſterling money.

New-York	160
The Jerſeys	160
Pennſylvania	170
Maryland	200
North-Carolina	1400
South-Carolina	800

In the month of Auguſt 1740, the ſale of the French Eaſt-India company's merchandize at Port L'Orient amounted to twenty-two millions of livres, or about one million ſterling; which ſufficiently demonſtrates the vaſt increaſe of that company's commerce to Eaſt-India, in the ſpace of a few years paſt.

During this year there arrived at Amſterdam 1645 ſhips, being 168 fewer than in the year 1738.

At that city, in the ſame year, there died 10,056 perſons; being above 2500 more than in the preceding year.

At Paris, in 1739 Chriſtened 19,781—Buried 21,989
——— 1740 ——— 18,632— ——— 25,285

47,273 in both years.
Average of burials, 23,636½ in one year.

The king ſent out Commodore George Anſon †, an experienced commander, with one ſhip of 60 guns, two of 50 guns, one of 40, and one of 20 guns, a ſloop and two victuallers, to diſtreſs Spain as much as poſſible in the South ſea. It is true, this expedition was rather a matter of war than of commercial hiſtory; yet, as it has ſome relation to

* In a letter (on this occaſion) from a merchant at Boſton in New-England to a friend in England, concerning the different values of paper currency in the Britiſh plantations, we have an explanation thereof, viz. 'upon the continuance of a 'favourable turn in the trading circumſtances of 'the province (of New-England) the government 'might ſtop at any rate which ſilver ſhould fall to, 'and make that rate the fixed ſilver pound, and 'make it a lawful tender; and the common conſent or acceptance of the people would complete the ſcheme of ſilver money. And thus the 'ſterling pound is fixed, in England, to 3 ounces 17 penny-weight and 10 grains of ſilver of a 'certain fineneſs, or ſilver at 5/2 per ounce. But, 'if that kingdom were under our unhappy circumſtances, as not having a ſufficiency in value 'of ſilver and all other exports, to diſcharge the 'whole demand in return for their' (i. e. Great Britain's) 'imports, it would then be next to a 'miracle if ſilver did not riſe to above 5/2 per 'ounce in the markets, in proportion to the balance of debt againſt them: and their trading 'circumſtances continuing to decline, (as ours 'have) their ſilver would be brought to 27/ per 'ounce (as ours is) and the current money of 'Great Britain be at the rate of 27/ per ounce, 'whatever the lawful money might be. This is 'evident from the ſucceſs of Queen Anne's proclamation, in the 3d year of her reign, and the 'act of parliament ſubſequent upon it, deſigned 'to fix the plantation pound to 2 ounces 16 'penny-weights 16 grains of ſilver, of the fine'neſs of common pieces of eight at 6/10½ per 'ounce; which moſt certainly was well intended, but for the aforeſaid reaſons could not take 'effect: and there is but one plantation that I 'know of, viz. Barbados, where common ſilver is 'received by weight, agreeable thereto: Virginia 'not ſo high, and all the others got beyond that 'ſtandard, in very different degrees.' *A.*

† Afterwards created Lord Anſon, and worthily placed at the head of the admiralty board. *A.*

commerce, and as it likewiſe ſhews Spain's feebleneſs in the South ſea when at war with us, it ſeems needful, though very briefly, to relate its ſucceſs. He ſailed from Portſmouth in September 1740, and in May 1741 he got round Terra del Fuego into the South ſea, after much peril and loſs by ſtorms. In September 1741, he took a rich Spaniſh prize; and, coaſting along Chili, in November the ſame year, he took another Spaniſh prize, laden with cloth and iron. Sailing to the coaſt of Peru, he took, plundered, and burnt, the town of Payta, in the ſame month. Thence he ſailed to the coaſt of Mexico, and oppoſite to the harbour of Acapulco, he learned that the Manilla ſhip was not to ſail during that ſeaſon; wherefor, in May 1742, he ſteered weſtward for the coaſt of China, where he arrived in November; and he remained in the road of Macao till April 1743, when he ſailed for the Philippine iſles; where, in June, he took a very rich Acapulco ſhip, bound for Manilla, with the treaſure of which he ſailed homeward, reaching the Cape of Good Hope in March 1744; and on the 14th of June he anchored at Spithead with only the Centurion, his 60 gun ſhip, all the reſt being loſt, or left as unable to proceed. This is the laſt Britiſh circumnavigation of the globe, much to the glory of the nation, and to the greatly-merited emolument of the noble commander of it *.

There were exported this year from South-Carolina 91,110 barrels of rice, 10,263 barrels of pitch, 2374 barrels of tar, 562 barrels of turpentine, 432 hogſheads of deer-ſkins, beſides cheſts and looſe ones, &c. †

1741.—In the year 1741 the induſtrious and ingenious Mr. John Smart, of the city clerk's office in London, publiſhed an accurate account of the number of houſes in every precinct of the twenty-five wards within the bars or limits of the lord mayor of London's juriſdiction, (the twenty-ſixth ward, named Bridge-ward without, not having any houſes reckoned therein) whereby he makes the whole number of houſes therein to amount but to 21,649. And though in his dedication to the common council, he deſires them to correct the errors in his account, (which, ſays he, like a modeſt man, I fear are many) yet, as he was known to be an accurate perſon, and that no one has animadverted on, nor contradicted his account, we may take it for granted that it is a true one. How inaccurate then muſt the writers of the former part of the preceding century have been in magnifying the number of ſouls within the juriſdiction beyond all rational probability? More eſpecially when it is conſidered, that, after the great conflagration in 1666, very many void ſpaces were built up, as well as the ground of ſpacious houſes and gardens of

* Britain can boaſt of many circumnavigations ſince that one, and much more to the glory of the nation; in as much as the purſuits of ſcience are more honourable than thoſe of depredation, though perhaps not ſo much to the emolument of the commanders. *M.*

† The total value of the imports of England in the year 1740 was L.6,703,778, and of the exports (not including coin and bullion) L.8,197,788 [*Whitworth's State.*] *M.*

moſt of our nobility and gentry, &c. who formerly reſided within thoſe limits, which have ſince been built up into narrow ſtreets, alleys, and courts; whereby the number of houſes muſt, upon the whole, have been conſiderably increaſed ſince that fatal period; even though we admit, that, for the ſake of ornament, ſeveral ſtreets ſince then have been made wider and more uniform than they were before. The late great increaſe indeed of merchants and wholeſale dealers in our own time in the city, has obliged them to pull down numbers of houſes in different parts of it, to erect large warehouſes with cellars, which farther leſſens the number of houſes.

The immenſe increaſe of the linen manufacture of the kingdom of Ireland at this time is almoſt aſtoniſhing, were there not ſo many undoubted living teſtimonies of it; enough indeed to alarm all the foreign linen countries, and to give ſolid pleaſure to all truely intelligent Britons; as whatever adds to the wealth and ſtrength of the kingdom of Ireland is a real acceſſion of ſo much of both to the Britiſh empire. In a letter from Ireland, we were told, that, at the acceſſion of King William III, Ireland did not export to the value of L6000 in linen; whereas, ſays the letter-writer, they now (1741) export annually an hundred times as much in value, or L600,000.

This great improvement was foretold long before by Sir William Temple, in his Miſcellanies, [*2d edition*, 1681.] 'No women,' ſays that great man, 'are apter to ſpin linen thread well than the Iriſh; who, 'labouring little in any kind with their hands, have their fingers more 'ſupple and ſoft than other women of the poor condition amongſt us. 'And this may certainly be advanced and improved into a great manu-'facture of linen, ſo as to bear down the trade both of France and Hol-'land, and draw much of the money which goes from England to thoſe 'parts upon this occaſion into the hands of his majeſty's ſubjects of 'Ireland, without croſſing any intereſt of trade in England: for, be-'ſides what has been ſaid of flax and ſpinning, the ſoil and climate are 'proper for whitening, both by the frequent brooks, and alſo winds 'in that country.'

By the Engliſh Ruſſia company's charter, of the firſt and ſecond of Philip and Mary, which was confirmed by a ſtatute of the eighth year of Queen Elizabeth, they have the ſole privilege of trading from London to the dominions of Ruſſia, and likewiſe to the countries of Armenia, Media, Hyrcania, and Perſia, on the Caſpian ſea. An attempt was accordingly made by that company for trading into Perſia by the great river Volga and the Caſpian ſea in the year 1558, as related under that year: but that project was ſoon dropped, as being then thought too hazardous; and it remained in ſuſpenſe ever ſince, till now, when an act of parliament was obtained by that company, for opening a trade to and from Perſia through Ruſſia; in which a clauſe was inſerted, where-

by the act of navigation of the 12th of King Charles II, which enjoins, that no merchandize ſhall be imported into England or Ireland but from the place of their growth, production, or manufacture, or from thoſe parts where they could only be had, or were uſually or actually wont to be firſt ſhipped for tranſportation, was ſo far diſpenſed with. And as raw ſilk and other Perſian commodities had not been uſually brought to England through Ruſſia, it was hereby enacted, that they might nevertheleſs be ſo imported through Ruſſia in Britiſh ſhips, legally navigated, ſuch raw ſilk, &c. being purchaſed by barter with Britiſh manufactures or product exported to Ruſſia, upon paying the like cuſtoms as the Levant company now pays for the ſame brought from the Levant. [14 *Geo. II, c.* 36.] This new ſcheme was for ſome time ſucceſsfully practiſed; and conſiderable quantities of raw ſilk and other Perſian merchandize were imported in this way, as appears by a ſupplemental ſtatute of the 23d of the ſame king, for permitting raw ſilk of the growth or produce of Perſia, purchaſed in Ruſſia, to be imported into this kingdom from any port or place belonging to the empire of Ruſſia: by which laſt ſtatute it was enacted, 'that, from chriſtmas 1750, 'all freemen of the Ruſſia company, and they only, may import into 'this kingdom from Ruſſia, in Britiſh-built ſhips, navigated according 'to law, raw ſilk of the growth of Perſia, purchaſed by barter with 'woollen, or other manufactures, &c. from Great Britain to Ruſſia, 'though the ſame be not carried from thence into Perſia, or with the 'produce ariſing from the ſale of ſuch commodities, and not otherwiſe, 'atteſted upon oath, under the ſame cuſtoms and regulations, &c. as 'the Turkey company are ſubject to for raw ſilk from Perſia.' Till the wars and deſolations rendered that trade quite impracticable (as it remains to the preſent time) it was ſaid to be a profitable branch of buſineſs to the Ruſſia merchants.

At this time projects and ſchemes were publiſhed in the Britiſh continental colonies of America, for ſupplying a want, or ſuppoſed want, of a medium in trade, by ſetting up a bank on land ſecurity. The ſtock was to be raiſed by public ſubſcriptions, whereof ſmall ſums were from time to time to be paid in by the ſubſcribers, and to be managed by directors, treaſurers, and other officers; and dividends were to be made: and the ſubſcribers were to promiſe to receive the bills which they ſhould iſſue as lawful money in all payments, trade, and buſineſs; and after the expiration of twenty years, to pay the poſſeſſor the value thereof in manufactures. And as ſundry other ſchemes, ſocieties, partnerſhips, or companies, have been propoſed, and may be ſet on foot in America, contrary to the true intent and meaning of a ſtatute [6 *Geo. I, c.* 17] for better ſecuring certain powers and privileges intended to be granted by his majeſty's two charters, for aſſurance of ſhips and merchandize at ſea, &c. and for reſtraining ſeveral extravagant and

unwarrantable practices therein mentioned and described, and for preventing the like for the future; whereby, ' the presuming to act as a ' corporate body, or to make transfers or assignments of shares, with- ' out legal authority, or the pretending to act under any charter, for- ' merly granted from the crown for any particular or special purposes ' therein expressed, by persons endeavouring to make use of such char- ' ter for any such other purpose not thereby intended, and all acting ' under any such obsolete charter herein described, should be deemed ' to be public nuisances, and to be triable accordingly, as by the sta- ' tute of the 16th year of King Richard II. And whereas doubts have ' arisen whether that act does extend to his majesty's dominions in ' America,' it was now enacted, (14th of King George II, for restraining and preventing several unwarrantable schemes and undertakings in his majesty's colonies and plantations in America) ' that the said act of ' the 6th of King George I, and every part thereof, shall extend to Bri- ' tish America, and the contraveners shall be liable to the like fines, ' punishments, &c. to be tried in the king's courts in America.' This was a prudently-intended law: for, as our colonies grow greater and more populous, projects might get into their heads, which would prove very detrimental to the industry and parsimony necessary to such colonies.

As the remote west and north-west parts of the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the isles thereunto belonging, were found to be inaccurately laid down in the sea-charts, a statute passed [14 *Geo. II, c.* 39] for surveying the chief ports and headlands on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the islands and plantations thereto belonging, in order to the more exact determination of the longitude and latitude thereof. The act recites the statute of the 12th of Queen Anne, for providing a public reward for such persons as shall discover the longitude at sea, which directs the commissioners of the navy to set apart L2000 for making experiments towards finding out the said longitude; and the commissioners for discovering the longitude are empowered to apply such part of the said L2000 as has not already been laid out in experiments for making such survey, and determining the longitude and latitude of the said chief ports and headlands. It is even still to be apprehended, that some parts on the British shores, and more especially the western coasts of Britain and Ireland, require a more accurate survey; but more than the whole sum herein named would be required to execute that necessary point to effectual purpose.

There were married in the year 1741 at Amsterdam 2666 couples of persons, and buried 9864 persons.

There arrived this year at Amsterdam 1813 ships, as by the Dutch newspapers, viz.

	Ships.
There came from Sweden	25
Ruſſia, and other parts of the Baltic ſea	405
Greenland and Davis's ſtraits	150
France	336
Spain	111
Portugal	80
Italy	23
The Levant	10
Barbary	5
Eaſt-India	15
The Weſt-Indies	99
	1259

As England, Scotland, Ireland, and Flanders, are not named, the reſt muſt have come from thence, as being near neighbours, and may very well be ſuppoſed to have amounted to 554 veſſels of all kinds. It is needleſs here to remark, how vaſt a commerce muſt be carried on by this mighty city, and conſequently what immenſe riches its inhabitants muſt be poſſeſſed of.

1742.—After twenty years ſilence concerning the much wiſhed for, and frequently attempted, north-weſt paſſage, an ingenious and knowing gentleman of Ireland, Arthur Dobbes Eſquire, (ſince governor of North-Carolina) earneſtly applied to the admiralty board to make a new attempt for finding that ſuppoſed paſſage, at the government's expenſe; urging the great probability of finding it, by ſundry very plauſible arguments. The king and his miniſters being unwilling to diſcourage a propoſal, which, if ſucceſsful, muſt be attended with great advantages to the nation, gave directions to the admiralty board (where Sir Charles Wager, an experienced navigator, at this time preſided) to ſend out two of the king's ſhips on that diſcovery, under the direction of Captain Chriſtopher Middleton, who had been twenty years a commander in the Hudſon's-bay company's ſervice.

His inſtructions * from the board of admiralty, on a ſuppoſition of finding a paſſage, were in ſubſtance as follows:

In places where you meet with inhabitants, make purchaſes, with their conſent, and take poſſeſſion of convenient ſituations in the country, in the name of his majeſty of Great Britain: but where there are no inhabitants, you muſt take poſſeſſion, by ſetting up proper inſcriptions, as firſt diſcoverers and poſſeſſors. If in your paſſage you meet with any ſhips trading to the weſtern countries eaſtward of Japan, or any Japaneze ſhips, and you apprehend any danger from them, either

* The inſtructions are printed in Captain Middleton's defence of his own conduct, publiſhed in the year 1743. *A.*

from their force or number, you are to proceed no farther on the diſcovery, but immediately to return; that ſhips of ſufficient force may be ſent out next ſeaſon to begin a trade or make a ſettlement, without any apprehenſion of diſturbance from any powerful nations on that ſide, leſt any accident ſhould prevent your return, and diſcourage any farther attempts to be made for the future. If you ſhould arrive at California, without any apprehenſion of danger, and chooſe to winter in 42 degrees, (where Caxton is ſaid to have found a civilized nation, and a good harbour) or elſe more ſoutherly; then endeavour to meet Captain Anſon in the month of December, before the arrival of the Manilla or Acapulco ſhip at Cape St. Lucas, the ſouthern cape of California, and leave a copy of your journal with him, leſt any accident ſhould happen to you upon your return, and ſo the diſcovery be loſt, and that it might prevent ſhips being ſent out to your relief in caſe of ſhipwreck.

Given under our hands, the 20th of May 1741. *Charles Wager*, *Thomas Frankland*, *Glenorchy*.

He ſailed in 1741 on the diſcovery, and wintered in Hudſon's bay at one of the company's forts at Churchill river; and in the ſummer of 1742 he ſailed again as far north as 66½ degrees, and ſearched into an inlet or river, weſtward, which he named Wager river, &c. and being now fully confirmed that no ſuch paſſage was to be found, he returned home that ſame year with the king's ſhips.

This produced a great deal of altercation in print between him and Mr. Dobbes, who was ſo eagerly bent on that diſcovery: Captain Middleton inſiſting on the above inlet's being merely a river, and Mr. Dobbes inſiſting it was the paſſage wiſhed for, though he was never in thoſe ſeas, wherein the captain had greatly the advantage of him. Mr. Dobbes accuſed the later of favouring the Hudſon's-bay company, who, as he alleged, had no ſort of inclination to forward this diſcovery, as believing it would be the means of laying their trade open, to which they certainly have no legal excluſive right by act of parliament, but merely by King Charles II's charter. He alſo alleged, that this company ſell their goods to the ſavages in that bay at 2000 per cent profit: he is therefor for diſſolving the company, and for laying the trade open to all the king's ſubjects. He accuſes him (whom, however, he admits to be a capable perſon) as well as the company, of knowing and concealing the paſſage; and inſiſts, that there are many marks of ſuch a paſſage; as, particularly, the ſaltneſs of the water, the ſtrength of tides and currents up Wager ſtrait or river, and black whales being found in it, and in the opening called the Welcome, near it. Yet Captain Middleton endeavours to account for this, by ſuppoſing ſome under-ground paſſage for the ſea out of Baffin's bay, or Davis's ſtraits, &c. And here we muſt leave this dark ſubject for the preſent.

The old or original capital of the bank of England of L1,600,000 being at an intereſt of 6 per cent till the 1ſt of Auguſt 1743, when alſo that company's excluſive privileges expire, and the natural intereſt of money being at this time very low, the government availing itſelf thereof, made this year a contract with the bank, and had it confirmed by parliament, that the bank ſhould advance L1,600,000 more without any additional intereſt whatever, (i. e. by agreeing that both ſums, amounting to L3,200,000, ſhould bear an intereſt of only 3 per cent); in conſideration of which ſervice to the public, the bank, by this ſtatute, had their privileges of banking, excluſive of any partnerſhip beyond ſix perſons, till one year's notice, and repayment of principal and arrears, after the 1ſt of Auguſt 1764. By this act, perſons forging, counterfeiting, or altering any bank note, bill of exchange, dividend warrant, or any bond or obligation under that company's ſeal, or any indorſement thereon, or knowingly uttering the ſame, ſhall ſuffer death without benefit of clergy. Moreover, the company's ſervants breaking their truſt to the company ſhall ſuffer death as felons without benefit of clergy. It was alſo enacted, that when, at a court of directors of the bank, neither the governor nor deputy-governor ſhall attend in two hours after the time appointed for buſineſs, then any thirteen or more of the directors may chooſe a chairman for the time, for the diſpatch of buſineſs; which court ſhall be as valid as if either the governor or deputy-governor had duely attended. Hereby the bank was authorized to take in ſubſcriptions for advancing the ſaid L1,600,000 *. [15 *Geo. II, c.* 13.]

The parliament taking into their conſideration, that the linen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland were of late years greatly improved, whereby the prices, as well of foreign as of home fabric, were conſiderably reduced, in order to extend thoſe advantages as much as poſſible, laid an additional duty on foreign cambrics imported of 1/5 for every half piece, and 2/10 for every whole piece; out of which additional duty there was allowed a bounty of 1*d* for every yard of Britiſh and Iriſh linen, worth from 6*d* to 12*d* per yard in value, and one halfpenny per yard for linen under the value of 6*d* per yard, exported. [15, 16 *Geo. II, c.* 29.]

It has, for very many years paſt, been judged of the utmoſt conſequence, that the trade and navigation to and from the Britiſh American plantations ſhould be entirely confined and ſecured ſolely to Britiſh, Iriſh, and American, ſubjects: for which end it was, by a ſtatute of the 7th and 8th of King William III, and the 5th of Queen Anne, and now confirmed by an act of parliament [15, 16 *Geo. II, c.* 31] for farther regulating the plantation-trade, &c. enacted, that all ſhips trading

* The capital ſtock of the bank was now L9,800,000, yielding to the proprietors a dividend of *five and a half* per cent. *M.*

from Britain and Ireland, and alſo all the ſhips of our American plantations, ſhould be regiſtered as Britiſh, Iriſh, or plantation, built, or elſe prize-ſhips made free: and a certificate of ſuch regiſter was to be always ready in the maſter's hands: many frauds had nevertheleſs been diſcovered in this reſpect, certificates of ſuch regiſters having been frequently ſold to foreigners, whoſe ſhips, under colour thereof, have been admitted to trade to and from the Britiſh plantations, contrary to thoſe former laws. For prevention whereof, the maſter of every ſhip arriving in America muſt now take an oath of all the qualifications neceſſary for aſcertaining ſuch ſhip to be a qualified one for trading thither, and to be abſolutely and ſolely the property of his majeſty's Britiſh, Iriſh, or American, ſubjects.

Some Ruſſian adventurers from Tartary having now, as well as in ſome former years, diſcovered the coaſts of America, of which they actually had ſight, and particularly of California, had, it ſeems, ſailed 12½ degrees north of that country, where no voyager had been before. From thoſe diſcoveries of the Ruſſians, it may be concluded (ſays Dr. Buſching, in the firſt volume of his very valuable Geography of Europe, *p.* 524, Engliſh tranſlation), that Aſia and America, about the 66th degree of north latitude, are ſeparated from each other only by a very narrow channel.

At the city of Dublin in this year 1742 there were chriſtened 1357 children; buried 2320 perſons. This laſt number, multiplied by 33, gives the probable number of ſouls in Dublin to be 76,560, provided the numerous papiſts of that city, and all the proteſtant diſſenters duely regiſter their burials, which is at leaſt doubtful.

At Amſterdam there arrived this year 1591 ſhips.

1743.—Though the controverſy from the preſs between Mr. Dobbes and Captain Middleton, concerning the paſſage through Hudſon's bay weſtward to China, &c. and the nature of the Hudſon's-bay company's trade with the ſavages of that bay, be too prolix to be totally tranſcribed into this work, yet there were ſundry branches thereof thereby brought to light, which are well worth recording.

The captain, in his farther vindication, printed in 1743, obſerves, 'that, until a little above twenty years before, the voyage to Hudſon's 'bay was ſeldom made without wintering there.' This ſhews that the company has thereby made a conſiderable improvement therein, and a conſiderable ſaving muſt needs be made by not wintering at their forts on ſo inhoſpitable a ſhore.

Mr. Dobbes has taken the pains to give the public the entire ſale of all that company's returns in the year 1743, viz.

26,750 beaver ſkins, ſold for	- -	L9780	4 0
12,370 marten's ſkins	- - -	4242	7 0
2360 damaged ditto	- -	442	10 0

590 otter's ſkins	L413	0	0
850 cats	765	0	0
260 damaged ditto	52	0	0
320 foxes	200	0	0
600 woolverines	205	0	0
170 ditto, damaged	27	12	0
320 black bears	368	0	0
1580 wolves	1580	0	0
270 ditto, damaged, and ſtags	123	15	0
40 woodſhock ſkins	22	6	0
10 mink ſkins	1	10	0
5 racoon ſkins	0	16	0
120 ſquirrel ſkins	2	0	0
46,615 of all ſorts, ſold for	L18,226	0	0

He adds the following articles, but without their prices, viz. 130 elk ſkins, 440 deer ſkins, 3170 pound weight of bed-feathers, and 220 lb. in a tick, 140 caſtorum, 470 whale fins, 23 caſks of whale oil, and 8 lb. of weſaguipaka.

And in their March ſale 40,125 beaver, worth	L14,670	0	0
Unvalued goods, about	400	0	0
Total amount of their ſales in the year 1743	L33,296	0	0

Upon this ſtate of this little company's ſales, we may obſerve, that if their capital ſtock be but about L100,000, and that thereon they had not for many years divided more than 10 per cent on that capital annually, and if this year's ſale be any rule to determine for other years, it will follow that the company's annual expenſe for ſhipping, forts, garriſons, ſalaries, and home charges, may be about L20,000. So that, though Mr. Dobbes has ſpared no pains to be maſter of this ſubject, yet, after all, conſidering the riſks the company conſtantly runs, their gains are little to be envied. Captain Middleton tells us, that the company has in all 120 perſons, officers, ſoldiers, and ſervants, in their four forts in Hudſon's bay; which forts are abſolutely requiſite for their people employed in preparing cargoes during winter, againſt the arrival of their ſhips, as well as to protect them from the attempts of the ſavages and of wild beaſts. So that, if the company ſhould be diſſolved, as Mr. Dobbes propoſes, and the trade laid open, thoſe forts muſt be kept up by a rate, or tax, on the private traders; and undoubtedly the company muſt, in ſuch a caſe, have a reaſonable compenſation for the... : and as the company, through the means of the forts, by their long experience of the trade, and by ſome ſort of correſpondence with

the ſavages, have raiſed, and for many years carried on, a commerce very beneficial to the nation, they might reaſonably hope for a farther compenſation on that account likewiſe. All things therefor being duely weighed, it may ſeem doubtful, whether it would be more eligible to diſſolve the company, in expectation (as Mr. Dobbes believes) of extending the trade much farther when laid open, or to ſuffer this branch of our commerce to go on in its preſent channel; unleſs the ſo-much-deſired paſſage weſtward to the Aſiatic world could be found practicable; in which caſe, indeed, there may be found good reaſons for taking thoſe forts into national management, and for erecting others in that ſuppoſed paſſage: Mr. Dobbes, Captain Middleton, and others alſo, later than them, have deſcribed ſundry very plauſible ſymptoms of a communication with the ſea of Japan. Yet, on the other hand, even ſuppoſing that communication to be certain, it may happen to be impracticable for ſhipping, either through its frozen ſituation (like Weygatz ſtraits), or from its being blocked up by rocks and ſmall iſlands; or, laſtly, it may be found too hazardous and impracticable to guard and keep it to ourſelves alone, for reaſons obvious enough. Should our nation be the diſcoverers of ſuch a practicable paſſage weſtward, it would doubtleſs open ſundry new and very unuſual ſcenes, and commercial opportunities, and would give us great advantages over other nations, not only in ſhortening the voyage to Japan and China, and even to India, properly ſo called, and to the adjacent iſles; but likewiſe in opening a commerce to us with the whole weſt ſide of North-America, without rivals, where mines of the richer metals are known to abound near and at New-Mexico, California, &c. More fine-ſpun ſpeculations of this kind would rather amuſe than inform, and therefor we ſhall leave them, and come again to more practicable matter.

Mr. Dobbes has given us a catalogue of Britiſh manufactures, &c. which the Hudſon's-bay company exchanges with the Indians. He ſays that *one beaver's ſkin* is the ſtandard medium of circulation, and is the eſtabliſhed price of each of the following articles, viz.

A pound weight of braſs kettles,	2 combs,
1½ lb. of gunpowder,	2 yards of gartering,
5 lb. of lead ſhot,	1 pair of breeches,
6 lb. of Brazil tobacco,	1 piſtol, or
1 yard of bayſe,	2 hatchets.

The other ſkins and goods of the ſavages are, doubtleſs, valued alſo by this ſtandard of a beaver-ſkin, though he has not ſhewn the proportions thereof.

Other goods uſually carried thither are, glaſs-beads, black-lead, ſugar, thread, vermilion, brandy, broad cloth, blankets, duffles, flannel, awl-blades, buttons, fiſh-hooks, fire-ſteels, files, guns, flints, yarn, mittins, handkerchiefs, hats, hawks-bells, knives, ice-chizels, looking-glaſſes,

needles, net-lines, rings for the fingers, runlets, ſword-blades, ſpoons, ſhirts, ſhoes, ſtockings, ſaſhes, worſted, thimbles, tobacco-boxes, tongs, trunks, twine, &c. Which ſhews, in ſome meaſure, that Mr. Dobbes's opinion may be right, that the extenſion of this trade farther into the vaſt inland countries, ſouthward and ſouth-eaſt from the bay, might prove a national advantage. Yet, whether thoſe countries be ſo fertile and ſo well inhabited as he alleges, is at leaſt doubtful.

There was exported by the Hudſon's-bay company in the year 1737 to the value of - - - - - - - L4124 18 2

In the year 1738 - - - - - - - 3879 17 11

Thus this diſpute between Mr. Dobbes and Captain Middleton has brought to light more particulars for illuſtrating this trade, than either the company would, probably, have readily done, or the public could have otherwiſe expected.

Mr. Dobbes has moreover given us alſo a catalogue of the peltry imported from Canada, or New-France, into the port of Rochel, for the year 1743, viz.

127,080	beaver ſkins,	1220	fine cats,
16,512	bears,	1267	wolves,
110,000	racoons,	92	wolverines,
30,325	martens,	10,280	grey foxes and cats,
12,428	otters and fiſhers,	451	red foxes;
1700	minks,		

in all 311,355 ſkins, worth about L120,000 ſterling, according to the above valuation of the Hudſon's-bay peltry.

Both Mr. Dobbes and Captain Middleton admit, that there is a good copper-mine on the weſt ſide of Hudſon's bay, not far from the coaſt, which might, probably, be brought to good account, were a fort built near it. It is on that weſt ſide, where the company's chief forts and trade are leſs in danger of being annoyed by the French forts north of Canada, and which were much too near ours on the ſouth ſide of Hudſon's bay, ſuch as our beſt and ſtrongeſt fort, named the Prince of Wales's fort, from whence in 1742 the company got 20,000 beaver's ſkins; that on Churchill river; York-fort on Nelſon's river, antiently called on our maps Port-Nelſon; another on New-Severn river; one on Albany river; and one on Mooſe river, at the very ſouthern extremity of the bay; where they keep themſelves cloſe, both ſummer and winter for the moſt part, having no country plantations, and with only a kitchen garden under the walls of their forts, wherein they raiſe a few herbs and greens. Whereas, ſays Mr. Dobbes, would the company ſettle and build forts higher up from the ſea, on the weſt and ſouth ſides of the bay, where the froſts and cold are not near ſo intenſe, and where they will find a rich country, well wooded, with all manner of plants, herbs, &c. with plenty of graſs, rivers, and lakes; or rather, were the

trade laid open, and thoſe fine inland countries upon Rupert's, Mooſe, Albany, and Nelſon, rivers, ſettled by our people, we might regain the whole trade from the French, and ſupply the natives with woollen and iron wares, &c. which, he ſays, the company do not do; but, inſtead thereof, by their exorbitant rates, do enable the French from Canada to underſell them. He adds, with reſpect to this company, that eight or nine private merchants engroſs nine tenth parts of the company's capital ſtock, whereby they are perpetual directors. Mr. Dobbes, for the greater corroboration of his opinion of the probability of a paſſage out of Hudſon's bay into the South ſeas, gives us an abſtract of the voyage of De Fonté, the vice-admiral of Peru, from Lima northward, on the weſt ſide of North-America, as far as the Tartarian ſeas in 77 degrees of north latitude, in the year 1640, by order of the king of Spain, who had advice of freſh attempts in 1639 for a north-weſt paſſage by certain navigators from New-England; and that the Spaniſh admiral had found in thoſe ſeas a ſhip from Boſton in New-England, commanded by one Captain Shaply, who was told by that admiral, that his inſtructions were, to make prize of any people ſeeking a north-weſt paſſage into the South ſea; but that, nevertheleſs, he would look upon them as merchants trading with the natives for beavers, &c. and ſo diſmiſſed him generouſly. Which account Mr. Dobbes thinks has all the appearance of being authentic, though it is plain there are ſundry very improbable circumſtances in it; particularly that admiral's aſſerting, at the concluſion of his journal, that he found there was no paſſage into that ſea by what is called the north-weſt paſſage, after he had related his finding the New-England ſhip in the Tartarian ſea; which circumſtance, however, Mr. Dobbes has laboured to clear up. He thinks, that ſhip might have paſſed into the Tartarian ſea through ſome of the openings near Whale-cove, in trading for furs, and might have been afterwards loſt, or elſe ſurpriſed by the Eſquimaux ſavages, upon her return home, ſeeing no account of this voyage was ever tranſmitted from Boſton; and that, upon Sir Charles Wager's making inquiry, whether any of the name of Shaply had lived at that time in Boſton, it did appear from certain writings, that ſome of that name had then lived at Boſton; which, ſays Mr. Dobbes, adds to the weight of De Fonté's account, and confirms its being an authentic journal *.

The ſuburbs of London ſtill increaſing on every ſide, and particularly towards the hamlet of Bethnal green, which at this time was increaſed to about 1800 houſes, and computed to have more than 15,000 inhabitants, which is above eight perſons to each houſe (by reaſon they are moſtly manufacturers, and the meaner ſort of working people, many

* If ſuch a voyage had been undertaken from Boſton, the memory of it could not have been utterly loſt in that place in the courſe of a century. But the diſcoveries of Fuente, and De Fuca (another fabricated Spaniſh navigator) are now univerſally allowed to be mere fables. The Spaniards have no accounts of any ſuch diſcoverers. *M.*

lodgers often crowding into one houſe) an act of parliament was paſſed [16 *Geo. II, c.* 28] to make that hamlet a ſeparate and diſtinct pariſh from that of St. Dunſtan's, Stepney; and for erecting a pariſh-church therein, ſince known by the name of St. Matthew Bethnal-green.

There were buried during the year 1743, at Dublin	2,193 perſons,
Chriſtened - - - - - - - - -	1,517
The number of burials multiplied by 30 gives	65,790
if by 33, is more	6,579
By this rule, the perſons in Dublin were -	72,369

We are obliged to wiſh we could depend on thoſe mortality bills.

1744.—The Engliſh Eaſt-India company, in conſideration of an enlargement for 14 years longer of their preſent excluſive trade and privileges, agreed to advance one million of money for the public exigency, for the year 1744, at 3 per cent intereſt. Which was accordingly confirmed by an act of parliament [17 *Geo. II, c.* 17] for granting to his majeſty the ſurplus or remainder of the duties on ſpirituous liquors, granted, &c. to commence from michaelmas 1744; the company being for this end enabled to borrow money on their common-ſeal by creating a million of new bonds, at 3 per cent intereſt. So that the entire debt thenceforth due by the public to this company was L4,200,000, hereby declared to be redeemable upon one year's notice after lady-day 1745, by payments of not leſs than L.500,000 at any one time. Yet, notwithſtanding ſuch redemption, this company ſhall continue to enjoy their excluſive commerce to Eaſt-India for the term granted by former laws; and, in conſideration of this loan to the public, they ſhall have an addition of fourteen years to their preſent excluſive term, which will therefor extend to three years notice to be given by parliament after lady-day 1780; and at the expiration of the ſaid three years, and repayment of the above L4,200,000, and all arrears of intereſt, then their title to an excluſive trade ſhall ceaſe and determine. Yet, after the ſaid determination, the company ſhall continue to have a common right with other ſubjects in and to the trade to India.

Thus the preſent condition of the Eaſt-India company is as follows,

Due to them in their corporate capacity L3,200,000 at 4 per cent, being L128,000 per annum; and L1,000,000 at 3 per cent, being L30,000 per annum.

In our war with Spain we happened, about two years and an half before this time, to ſeize on the iſland of Rattan near the bay of Honduras, belonging to that kingdom; and now the Britiſh parliament made an eſtimate and proviſion for the expenſe of a garriſon, fortifications, ſtores, &c. for it; it being thought extremely well ſituated for a

trade between Jamaica and the Spaniſh main. Yet, ſoon after, on a general peace, it was again reſtored to Spain.

The French having, as formerly noted, conſiderably gained upon England in their trade to the Levant, not only by the ſhortneſs of the voyage thither from Marſeilles, but alſo by judiciouſly ſtudying the manufacturing of ſuch kinds of ſlight, though fine-looking, woollen cloths, as may beſt ſuit their climate, which they can afford to ſell at a cheaper rate than that of our more ſubſtantial, and really finer, drapery; beſides their ſupplying the Turks, alſo cheaper than we can, with great quantities of ſugar, indigo, &c. it was at this time much canvaſſed, in converſation, pamphlets, and newſpapers, whether the ſhorteſt way for England to regain the aſcendant in that very important branch of commerce would not be to lay the Turkey trade entirely open to all Britiſh ſubjects. This went ſo far with many, that a bill was brought into parliament for enlarging and regulating the trade to the Levant ſeas; hoping, that, by the number of traders in an open trade, they ſhould be able to underſell the French, and recover the ground which they had gradually loſt. But our Turkey or Levant company, being heard at the bar of the houſe, gave thereby, and by their printed caſe, ſuch convincing reaſons againſt the bill, that it was at length dropped. The company readily admitted that their trade was much decayed; but they alleged in ſubſtance the following genuine reaſons for that declenſion, viz.

That, during the moſt flouriſhing periods of their trade, it was principally carried on with a coarſe kind of cloth, made entirely of Engliſh wool, in which no other nation could vie with them. But the French, after the treaty of the Pyrenees, enjoying a long courſe of proſperity, turned their views very much to foreign commerce, and particularly to that of the Levant, which the great Colbert puſhed forward at a vaſt public expenſe; till at length the cloth manufacture of Languedoc, made of two thirds Spaniſh wool and one third of the wool of that province, could be afforded at as low a price in Turkey as the Engliſh could afford to ſell a coarſer cloth, made all of their own wool, not worth above 9*d* per lb. That this ſuperiority of the material, and alſo that of the finer ſpinning, made a more ſhowy cloth, which, though ſlighter, found its vent in a warmer climate. That, moreover, the French make cloths of all Spaniſh wool for the Turkey markets, which they ſell cheaper than ours; though ours be more ſubſtantial. And though there are Engliſh cloths made of a mixture of Engliſh and Spaniſh wool, yet the French cloth of that ſort happens to be much cheaper. That the French, by this acquired advantage of Spaniſh wool, have got the better of the natural one which we long enjoyed; and that our clothiers are not able to make ſuch a cloth to ſuit the Turks, ſo cheap as the French can and do afford theirs before-mentioned. That,

moreover, the French have increaſed their trade to Turkey by carrying thither indigo and coffee in great quantities, which we have not, as alſo ſugar, which they ſell much cheaper than we can do. The wars of the great Peter, czar of Ruſſia, againſt Perſia having obſtructed the bringing of Sherbaff ſilk from the province of Ghilaun through Turkey, the Engliſh before that period uſually bought at Aleppo and Smyrna at leaſt 1000 bales, one year with another, worth about L100 each bale, and chiefly in barter for our cloth; a great part whereof the ſilk merchants carried back into Perſia, ſo that little or no ſilk comes now that way; and indeed it is now permitted to be brought through Ruſſia, as is alſo rhubarb, once a good article of return, but now become a monopoly in the hands of that court. And that, though that province has been reſtored to Perſia, yet the wars that have ſince been in thoſe provinces have ſo interrupted the commerce, that it is now much diverted into the other channel through Ruſſia. That there is a decreaſe, of one half at leaſt, in the conſumption of ſundry drugs, as well as in galls, goats-wool, and mohair-yarn, occaſioned by the change of faſhions. That the great increaſe of Italian and Spaniſh raw ſilk alſo leſſens the vent for Turkey raw ſilk; although thoſe ſilks are bought with ready money; whereas the Turkey raw ſilk is taken in return for the Britiſh manufactures ſold there. That the company, confiding in the royal charters and privileges, have conſtantly carried on a very conſiderable commerce to Turkey, whither they annually export large quantities of woollen and other manufactures, &c. and bring back great quantities of raw ſilk, mohair-yarn, &c. for the uſe of our home manufactures; and are at a very great expenſe in ſupporting the charge of an ambaſſador at Conſtantinople, and of conſuls in other parts of Turkey; as alſo in obtaining and renewing the needful capitulations with the Ottoman Porte, and in making conſiderable ſettlements at Conſtantinople, Aleppo, Smyrna, &c. and that they apprehend this bill will deprive them of thoſe privileges, ſo dearly purchaſed, if it does not likewiſe occaſion the total loſs of the trade.

It ſeems the Jews were very active in promoting this bill, which afforded the company and their friends within doors an occaſion to explain to the parliament and people, how probable it was, that they would, by being admitted, as was by many intended, into this trade, when laid open, engroſs the entire Levant trade, in conjunction with their own people in Turkey, who are the agents for the great men there, and the general brokers for merchants; and who, by combination amongſt themſelves, very much govern the ſale of merchandize. For which, and other reaſons, it was judged fit to drop the bill. This brief account will let thoſe who were before ignorant of the nature of this trade, in a great meaſure into at leaſt a general idea of it, which, indeed, is as much as

perſons, unacquainted with the practice of that particular branch of commerce, can reaſonably deſire to know.

We ſhall cloſe this year, 1744, with a ſummary view of the ſtate of the ſtock and funds of the bank of England, viz.

The original capital doubled, and reduced to 3 per cent intereſt, is - - - - - - - - - -	L3,200,000
For cancelling exchequer bills (*3tio Geo. I*) at 4 per cent - - - - - - - - - - -	500,000
Purchaſed in 1722, of the South-ſea company, at 4 per cent - - - - - - - - - - -	4,000,000
Annuities charged on the ſurplus of the funds of lottery 1714, at 4 per cent - - - - - - -	1,250,000
Annuities at 4 per cent, charged on the duty on coals ſince lady-day 1710 - - - - - - -	1,750,000
Total bank capital -	L10,700,000

Beſides the ſeveral 3 per cent lottery annuities transferable at the bank, i. e. of the year 1731, being L800,000; of the year 1742, being alſo L800,000; of the year 1743, being L1,800,000; and the like ſum of the year 1744, or L1,800,000; all which four laſt ſums are quite ſeparate and diſtinct from what is known by the name of the capital ſtock of the bank, the ſaid four ſums being entitled to their reſpective annuities alone, without any other profit whatever; whereas the capital ſtock of L10,700,000 was entitled to all the benefits of that company's banking, in the largeſt ſenſe of that word. We are here, however, to note, that though the principal ſum of L10,700,000 was actually due from the public to the bank, yet the transferable capital in the bank books, as divided among all their proprietors, was really but L9,800,000 bank ſtock; there being the ſum of L900,000 undivided capital remaining in that company's corporate capacity; by the intereſt whereof, and their profits by banking (i. e. by all the advantages the bank can make, either by circulating the government's exchequer bills, and by other dealings with the public; by what they make by diſcounting merchants bills of exchange; by dealing in foreign bullion; and, laſtly, by employing ſo much of the caſh of their circulating notes as is not judged abſolutely requiſite to remain in bank, for anſwering all the demands of thoſe notes, that prudent and moſt uſeful corporation was enabled to make at this time an annual dividend of 5½ per cent on their transferable capital of L9,800,000.

Now the annual intereſt paid to them from the public on L3,200,000, at 3 per cent, is - - - - -	L96,000
And on L7,500,000, at 4 per cent, is - - -	300,000
Total of the bank's intereſt from the public -	L396,000

But, as the bank has for ſeveral years paſt divided $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent yearly to the proprietors of the ſaid L9,800,000, being	L539,000
By deducting the ſaid yearly intereſt received from the public, being	396,000
There remain, as the annual profits of the ſaid L900,000, their undivided capital, and all their other various profits by banking, as aforeſaid, amounting together to	143,000
Now, if the intereſt paid by the government for the L900,000 undivided capital, at 4 per cent, be deducted, being	36,000
Then the clear annual profits of the bank, by their money concerns with the public, and by all their other certainly-known banking concerns, will be	107,000
Deduct thereout (ſuppoſe) for houſe-expenſe of all kinds, as ſalaries, &c.	17,000
And there will remain then of the known annual profit by mere banking	90,000

Laſtly, ſome might poſſibly be ſo much farther inquiſitive as to form conjectures, for they can be no other, concerning the proportion which the quantum of ready caſh, always neceſſary to be reſerved in this, or any other, public or private bank for the circulation of all their caſh notes and credit of accounts in a bank, bears, or ſhould bear, to the total amount of thoſe caſh notes and credit; and which is the ultimate article in all banking buſineſs, and probably alſo the moſt conſiderable one, more eſpecially with reſpect to our London private bankers, though, at the ſame time, an extremely caſual and uncertain one: nevertheleſs, as this laſt point may be properly termed the fair and reaſonable myſtery or ſecret of all banking, we can ſee no benefit which can ariſe by any ſuch minute inquiries to the generality of men; neither do we apprehend them proper to be inquired into at all, without there ſhould ariſe any reaſonable ſuſpicion of fraud. For it has been a political obſervation of long ſtanding, that even the reputation of great and powerful monarchies and ſtates often ſubſiſts more by common fame or opinion than by real ſtrength or ability (‘*magis fama quam vi*’); ſo it may more ſtrictly and properly be applicable to a bank and bankers; of which we had a moſt pregnant inſtance a few years ago at breaking up and dividing the profits of an eminent partnerſhip of a private bank in the city of London, which for many years had cleared or divided ſeveral thouſand pounds yearly for the partnerſhip; when, upon appraiſing all the real ſtock of that partnerſhip before the higheſt judge

of Great Britain, it appeared, even to that great man's amazement, that the whole did not amount to above three or four hundred pounds, entirely conſiſting of ſhop implements, and certain houſhold furniture, &c.

Perhaps this obſervation may, in ſome reſpects, be extended to moſt of the great commercial, as well as banking, ſocieties of the world; whoſe internal condition, circumſtances, and profits, it is by no means proper too narrowly to pry into, ſo long as they, to all appearances, are proſperous and punctual in all their affairs; though, like a private merchant, their circumſtances may not be alike proſperous at all times.

1745.—Having read in Ker of Kerſland's Memoirs, that the city of Hamburgh had no fewer than 5000 ſhips and boats belonging to it, and that looſe way of deſcribing its naval commerce not giving me ſufficient ſatisfaction, I applied in the year 1745 to a Hamburgh broker or agent, then reſiding at London, concerning the truth thereof; who freely acknowleged, that, if all the boats on the river Elbe belonging to Hamburgh, and the vaſt number of veſſels which that opulent city conſtantly employed in carrying merchandize up and down that large river, to and from the countries of Mecklenburg, Pomerania, Saxony, Brandenburg, Bohemia, Sileſia, &c. were to be taken into the account, he knew not whether there might not be ſo many of all kinds; but that the number of real ſhips trading on the Ocean and belonging to Hamburgh was not above 300; whereof 150 were from 200 to upwards of 500 tons burden, 27 of which ſhips were then actually lying in the river Thames: and that the remaining 150 were what are uſually called ſmall craft, or coaſters, trading principally to Holland. Beſides thoſe, they had three ſhips of war for the protection of their commerce from the Barbary rovers, which they keep conſtantly in their pay, viz. two of 40 to 50 guns each, and the third a ſmaller frigate. This account, ſeemingly a probable one, gives an high idea of the extenſive commerce and numerous ſhipping of that city.

The diſcovery of a north-weſt paſſage to the ſeas of Japan and China, continuing to be much the ſubject of converſation, an act of parliament paſſed [18 *Geo. II, c.* 17] whereby it was enacted, that if any ſhip of his majeſty's ſubjects ſhall find out, and ſail through, any paſſage by ſea between Hudſon's-bay and the weſtern and ſouthern ocean of America, the owner, or his aſſigns, ſhall receive a reward of L20,000. The commiſſioners for determining this diſcovery are therein named, being the great officers of ſtate, and of the treaſury, admirals, &c. Provided, however, that nothing in this act ſhall anyways extend to the prejudice of any part of the eſtate, rights, or privileges, belonging to the governor and company of adventurers of England trading into Hudſon's bay.

To prevent the frauds committed in counterfeiting the ſtamps put on Britiſh and Iriſh linen, in order to receive the bounty allowed on their exportation, a ſtatute paſſed this ſame year [*c.* 24] for effectually

preventing the exportation of foreign linens, under the denomination of Britiſh or Iriſh linens.

And by the next ſtatute [*c.* 25] it was enacted, that whereas the linen manufactures of Britain and Ireland are of late years greatly improved and increaſed, whereby the price of linens, as well of foreign as of home fabric, hath been conſiderably reduced, a farther bounty on their exportation was hereby enacted, of one halfpenny per yard on linen of the value of 5*d* and not exceeding 12*d* per yard; and of three halfpence per yard on linen from above 12*d* to 1*s* per yard; with ſundry other regulations for preventing frauds, &c. This ſtatute, it is hoped, will in time produce great and good conſequences for the increaſe of our own, and the diſcouraging of foreign, linens, for which ſuch great ſums are and have ſo long been paid, to ſupply the Britiſh, African, and American, trades, and all our other exportations of linens; whereby our own people will be employed, and the money kept at home, ſo long paid to Germany, Pruſſia, and Ruſſia for the ſame.

As the next ſtatute [*c.* 26] for repealing the inland duty of 4*s* per pound weight upon all tea ſold in Great Britain, and for granting to his majeſty certain other inland duties in lieu thereof, &c. relates only to the alterations thereby made in the manner of collecting the duty on that commodity, we ſhall take no farther notice of it, than merely to remark, that it was provided, that if at any time the Britiſh Eaſt-India company ſhall neglect to keep the London market ſupplied with a ſufficient quantity of tea at reaſonable prices, to anſwer the conſumption thereof in Great Britain, the board of treaſury may grant licences to any other perſon or perſons, bodies politic or corporate, to import teas into Great Britain from any part of Europe, ſubject to the like duties, reſtrictions, and limitations, &c. as are preſcribed with reſpect to tea to be imported by the Eaſt-India company from any part of Europe, &c.

It being evidently for the advantage of Great Britain, and particularly for the farther promoting of her own linen manufactures and thoſe of Ireland, that the wearing of foreign cambrics and French lawns ſhould not be permitted, a ſtatute [18 *Geo. II, c.* 36] for prohibiting the wearing and importation of cambrics and French lawns, enacted, that it ſhall not be lawful for any perſon in Great Britain to wear any cambric or French lawn, under the penalty of L5, and the like penalty on the ſellers thereof, &c. If this law was ſeriouſly intended to be executed, as its title and preamble ſeem to import, there is reaſon to apprehend it has not fully anſwered the intention; neither, perhaps, has a ſubſequent ſhort act [21 *Geo. II, c.* 26] for explaining, amending, and enforcing, the ſame, by farther extending the penalties to the venders, and alſo to the milliners making up ſuch cambrics.

Great Britain being at war with France, the province of New-England alone, aſſiſted by the king's ſhips of war, was now able to raiſe a

ſufficient land-force to take the iſland of Cape-Breton, which was formerly yielded to France by the treaty of Utrecht. Thoſe forces conſiſted of 4070 men, excluſive of commiſſion-officers, viz.

from Maſſachuſet's bay - - -	3250	men.
New-Hampſhire - - - -	304	
Connecticut - - - -	516	
	4070	

beſides the armed ſloops and ſailors belonging to thoſe three colonies and to that of Rhode-iſland. The importance of Cape-Breton is now well underſtood (ſays Sir William Pepperell, commander of thoſe forces, in his journal of its ſiege), or rather of the iſlands of Madame and Cape-Breton, which are ſo contiguous, that they are by moſt people ſuppoſed to be but one iſland, by the name of Cape-Breton. It extends from the gut of Canſo or Canceſſo, the eaſtern boundary of Nova-Scotia, eaſt-north-eaſt about 34 leagues, and helps to form the gulf of St. Laurence; which gulf is full of commodious bays, havens, iſlands, rivers; and at all ſeaſons of the year has great plenty of cod-fiſh, and at particular ſeaſons of the year has herrings, mackerel, &c. for bait: but the ice in winter renders its navigation unſafe, if not altogether impracticable, at leaſt to make fiſhing voyages; though in the ſummer ſeaſon there have been yearly fiſheries carried on at Gaſpay, at the entrance of Canada river, and in the little harbours from thence to Bayverte, at the iſlands of St. John and Magdalene, and through the gut of Canſo, and thence along the ſhore (to many other places therein named), and from Gaſpay round the north ſide of the gulf at the ſeveral convenient ports on the main, quite to the ſtraits of Belleiſle, and, by an allowance to the French in the treaty of Utrecht, (which they have made the moſt of) in all the harbours at the northward of Newfoundland that were unemployed by the Engliſh. And though, comparatively ſpeaking, there was but a ſmall number of their ſhips that fiſhed at Cape-Breton itſelf, yet the ſituation of that iſle is ſuch, that they could all of them at pleaſure repair thither on any emergency or danger, eſpecially thoſe that fiſhed in the gulf, on the main, or thoſe at the north-weſt of Newfoundland, who were all within one or two days ſail at moſt; and alſo thoſe ſhips that laded with mud-fiſh on the banks: ſo that this iſland of Cape-Breton was the key and protection of their whole fiſhery; and for that end it was fortified and garriſoned, and valued by France equal to any other of its colonies; though the harbour of Louiſbourg is not an extraordinary good one, and the iſland produces nothing either for food or raiment: ſo that the ſituation and conveniency of this place (being as it were the center of the whole fiſhery, and a cover and command to the whole gulf) was the greateſt inducement to France to fortify it. What other uſes it might ſerve for, as a port to the Eaſt and Weſt India ſhips,

and to thoſe bound to Canada, on occaſion to reſort to for wood and water, to clean or to repair, &c. not being ſo much in their view as ſecuring and upholding the fiſhery. Their conviction of the growing profits of the fiſhery there, and the hopes of one time or other monopolizing it, made them take ſuch indefatigable and indirect means the laſt war (i. e. of Queen Anne) to procure a neutrality, ſo far as related to the fiſhery, which they obtained by dint of money; and on the peace, in order to ſecure it to them for the future, ſtuck at no terms to obtain this iſland, which they had no ſooner effected, than they immediately ſettled it with a new colony of fiſhermen only. And a fiſhery flouriſhed here ſo faſt, that they could, and did, afford to underſell us at foreign markets. And for the protection of the trade ſo to do, they had annual ſhips of war ſent them from France to viſit and ſupply them, with orders to protect and defend not only their ſea-coaſts, but their veſſels on the banks of Newfoundland, &c.; and alſo to make and keep their pretenſions good to the ſeveral banks, either within or without their line; and to make themſelves a privilege as it were of fiſhing almoſt where they pleaſed, by force of cuſtom, in which they gradually increaſed; ſo that in the year 1732 two of their men of war were ordered on that ſtation, to cruiſe on the banks, to examine into the ſtate of the fiſhery, and to give them any neceſſary aſſiſtance and protection; and to go from thence to Canada, and ſo back to the fiſhery again, and thence to convoy thoſe ſhips that had made their voyages, and were ready to depart for Europe. The marquis de la Maiſon Forte, (continues Sir William Pepperell) in his journal, thus remarks, Louiſbourg is a good port and a ſafe harbour. More than 100 veſſels from France arrive there every year to fiſh, and make fiſh (i. e. to cure them) of the cod which they catch in ſmall craft of the country, and are after put into larger veſſels, where they ſalt them and dry them, from the beginning of June till October, when they all get ready to depart each for his aſſigned port. This iſland produces ſome grain; but though there are more than four thouſand inhabitants, they find their account much better in fiſhing than in huſbandry, and conſequently the land lies waſte; they procuring all neceſſaries in exchange for their fiſh.

Our author proceeds to illuſtrate the magnitude and profits of the fiſhery of the French in thoſe ſeas, viz.

From the gut of Canſo down along the ſhore to Louiſbourg, and from thence to the north-eaſt part of Cape-Breton, there were annually employed at leaſt 500 ſhallops, each of which required at ſea and on ſhore at leaſt five men; in all - - 2500 men.

Sixty brigs, ſchooners, and ſloops, with each 15 men, - - - - - 900 men.

Total men employed, 3400 men.

Each of the ſaid 500 ſhallops catches 300 quintals of fiſh in the ſummer ſeaſon; in all - - 150,000 quintals.
And each of the brigs, ſchooners, and ſloops, catches 600 quintals - - - - - 36,000

Total fiſh annually made at Cape-Breton, 186,000 quintals.

Now, to carry this fiſh to Europe there muſt be employed 93 ſhips, of the burden of 2000 quintals each, and each ſhip has 20 ſailors; in all - 1860 men.

Total men employed in the fiſhery of Cape-Breton, 5260

At Gaſpay, Quadre, and other harbours, mentioned in the following eſtimate, there are ſix ſhips yearly, which, as they come out from France, manned to catch their own cargoes in ſhallops (which they haul up, and leave in the country every winter till they return in the next ſpring) may, one with another, be allowed ſixty hands. And it has always been allowed from St. Maloes and Granville that they have at leaſt three hundred ſail of thoſe ſhips in this fiſhery, that fiſh at Petit-nord, Fichance, Belleiſle, and the gulf, which (all being computed as above, and allowing thoſe ſhips that ſo come out to make their own voyages, to carry each three thouſand quintals) will be as follows, viz.

	Ships.	Men.	Quintals.
At Cape-Breton, - -	93	5260	186,000
— Gaſpay, - -	6	360	18,000
— Quadre, - -	6	360	18,000
— Porte en Baſque, -	6	360	18,000
— Les Foils iſles, - -	3	180	9000
— St. Maloes, &c. -	300	18,000	900,000
Total,	414	24,520	1,149,000

There go alſo ſhips from St. Jean de Luz, Bayonne, Nantes, and Havre de Grace; and beſides all theſe, there have been conſtantly from the rivers Sindie, Olune, Poiteux, Havre, &c. 150 ſhips at leaſt (the French ſay 200 ſail) employed in the mud-fiſhery, (or mort-veſt, as they call it) from 16 to 24 men each, which carry home from 22,000 to 30,000 fiſh each. So, on the moſt moderate computation, 150 ſail of ſhips, with 20 men each, is 3000 men; and by tale, 3,900,000 fiſhes in all.

In regard to the value of this branch of trade, it is neceſſary to obſerve, that it alſo produces a large quantity of train-oil, viz. a hogſhead of 60 gallons of oil out of every hundred quintals of fiſh, and this out of the whole quantity will produce 11,490 hogſheads of oil. And allowing that 4000 fiſh in number are equal to 100 quintals when cured, then the 3,900,000 mud-fiſh, by the ſame rule, will yield 975 hogſheads of oil; which makes in all 12,465 hogſheads of oil.

Now, let the 1,149,000 quintals of fiſh be valued only at 10*s* ſterling per quintal (the prime coſt uſually at Newfoundland), and then it is worth - - - - - - L574,500 0 0

And to this allow 3*s* ſterling per quintal for freight in Engliſh bottoms to market, - - 172,350 0 0

And then the fiſh alone is worth - 746,850 0 0

And let the 12,465 hogſheads (or 3116¼ tons) of oil be valued at L18 ſterling per ton, - - 56,092 10 0

As to the mud-fiſh, they are generally ſold in France at 1000 livres for 1000 fiſh; and then, at 11*d* ſterling per livre, their value is - - - 178,750 0 0

And thus it appears that one year's fiſhery of the French is worth - - - - - L981,692 10 0

Which great branch of trade in a manner depends entirely on their poſſeſſion of the iſland of Cape-Breton, as it is impoſſible to carry it on without ſome convenient harbour of ſtrength.

In addition to this, in regard to the woollen manufacture, every man employed in this fiſhery conſuming in his back and bed clothes the value of 30*s* ſterling therein yearly, is L41,250 ſterling. Add alſo thereto the canvas, cordage, hooks, lines, twine, nets, lead, nails, ſpikes, edge-tools, graplins, anchors, &c. which 564 ſhips and ſhallops muſt expend at ſea and on ſhore; and allow all theſe to be Britiſh, and that Britain could keep it all to herſelf, and the value will be found of greater conſequence than any other trade dependent on our plantations, not even excepting the tobacco trade: firſt, in regard to raiſing ſeamen for the navy; ſecondly, in the conſumption of Britiſh manufactures and product; and, thirdly, and above all, in a certain annual remittance of the balance of this trade from Spain, Portugal, Italy, and other parts *. So that, all things duely conſidered, this acquiſition of Cape-Breton is of itſelf, and alone, a ſufficient compenſation for the war. Moreover, by this conqueſt, France has not any one ſea-port for the relief of their trading ſhips, either from the Eaſt or from the Weſt Indies, open to them anywhere in North-America to the northward of the river Miſſiſippi; for Canada is not to be looked upon as an open port to the ſea, it being impracticable to go thither for ſhelter, as being 60 or 70 leagues within land through the gulf to the mouth of the river, and then a great way farther up the river. And even as to Canada itſelf, the river is now ſo much under our command, as well as the gulf, that all trade, and even communication there, may be very eaſily ſtopped by our ſhips from

* To all theſe our author might have added the great number of people of various trades employed in building and fitting out the veſſels, and the advantage accruing to the landed intereſt from the conſumption of their proviſions. *A.*

Cape-Breton; inſomuch that, without force of arms, in a very few years that colony would fall, and the whole trade of furs carried on with the Indians there come into Engliſh hands. And a happier conſequence ſtill is, that hereby the French in Canada may not only be kept from ſupplying the Indians, but alſo from encouraging them to annoy our frontiers; ſo that thoſe Indians muſt become dependent on us. By this acquiſition, likewiſe, we have ſecured to the nation the garriſon of Annapolis-Royal, and the colony of Nova-Scotia; which country being a very rich and fertile ſoil, and its coaſts and rivers abounding with fiſh, and ſettled with French catholics, that nation has much regretted the loſs of, and wanted to recover. Our holding Cape-Breton will alſo keep thoſe French inhabitants of Nova-Scotia in ſtrict allegiance to his majeſty, or elſe oblige them to quit their poſſeſſions, which are all farms brought to perfection, and fit for any ſervice immediately. Had we not taken Cape-Breton this year, and the French had taken Annapolis, the conſequence then would have been, that all the inhabitants of Nova-Scotia would have declared for France immediately, and the colony would have been at once the French king's; whereby all the Cape-ſable and St. John's Indians, who aſſiſted France laſt year at the ſiege of Annapolis, together with thoſe of Canada, would have been let looſe upon our frontiers.

This account of the vaſt value of Cape-Breton, written by one living in its neighbourhood, and who was knighted for the ſucceſsful part he acted in reducing it to his Britannic majeſty's obedience, is in the main juſtly to be depended on, as not being the vague and romantic report of an unſkilful writer, but the faithful narration of one who was every way equal to the taſk *.

1746.—To balance the great loſs of the French in Cape-Breton, they next year took from our Engliſh Eaſt-India company their moſt important fort and town of Fort St. George, on the Coromandel coaſt, with the adjacent black town of Madras, being the capital of all our company's places in Eaſt-India; wherein they found no ſmall quantity of merchandize and treaſure: they alſo took one of that company's capital ſhips.

* Notwithſtanding Mr. Anderſon's encomium on Sir William Pepperell's flattering account of his own conqueſt, it is now known that it ought to be read with at leaſt ſome grains of allowance. The richneſs of the ſoil of Nova-Scotia has been often cried up, but it has never yet been very productive. *M.*

In conſequence of the alarm raiſed in the metropolis by the progreſs of the pretender's ſon, there was a great run upon the bank in the month of September. The directors endeavoured to make their caſh hold out as long as poſſible by making their payments in ſilver, and chiefly in ſixpences; an expedient which could not have availed them long. An infinitely more effectual, as well as more honourable, means of relief, was adminiſtered by a meeting of merchants, bankers, and traders, on the 26th day of that month. Thoſe gentlemen drew up a paper, wherein they declared their reſolution to ſupport the credit of the bank by receiving their notes in all payments, and uſing their utmoſt endeavours to pay them away to all perſons receiving payments from them. The reſolution was ſoon ſigned by above eleven hundred perſons, and had the happy effect of quieting apprehenſion, reſtoring confidence, and putting an immediate end to the run upon the bank. *M.*

On the 5th of July 1746 the king's charter paſſed for erecting the Britiſh linen company at Edinburgh; whereby a number of peers and eminent gentlemen and merchants were incorporated, with a capital of L100,000 ſterling, which may be farther increaſed from time to time, as their affairs ſhall require, to any limited ſum, by his majeſty's ſign-manual. Their ordinary affairs to be conducted by a governor, deputy-governor, and five directors. Their firſt governor was Archibald duke of Argyle, the great promoter of this charter. One of the main intentions of this company was to ſupply the Britiſh merchants trading to Africa, and to the American plantations, with ſuch kinds of linen cloth as they hitherto were obliged to purchaſe from foreign nations; whereby it is to be hoped that much money will be ſaved to the nation, which till now has been carried abroad for thoſe goods: a moſt worthy and truely public-ſpirited deſign, which there is good ground to hope will in due time fully anſwer expectation.

The bank agreed to deliver up to the treaſury L986,800 in exchequer bills; in lieu of which they were to have an annuity of 4 per cent for that ſum, out of the fund for licencing ſpiritous liquors: and the bank were hereby empowered to add the ſaid L986,800 to their capital ſtock, taking in ſubſcriptions for that end. [19 *Geo. II, c.* 6.]

Thus, at michaelmas 1746, the whole debt due to the bank from the public, was - - - L11,686,800
But the bank now hold thereof, in their corporate capacity, the undivided ſum of - - 906,800

which being deducted, there remained of transferable capital, divided amongſt all the proprietors, only - L10,780,000

It being too common for commanders of ſhips, lying in rivers, ports, &c. to throw out their ballaſt on the ſhore below the full-ſea mark, to the great detriment and filling up of thoſe ports, rivers, &c. a law was paſſed [19 *Geo. II, c.* 22] prohibiting the throwing out of any filth, rubbiſh, gravel, &c. except on the land where the tide never flows, under the penalty of at leaſt fifty ſhillings, and not exceeding five pounds for every offence. And ſhips or veſſels ſunk or ſtranded in any port or river, muſt be forthwith weighed up and removed by order of the magiſtrates. This act extended only to that part of Great Britain called England.

The manufacture of ſail-cloth had been long improving in Great Britain, and had been encouraged by ſundry acts of parliament; particularly by thoſe of the 9th and 13th of King George II, whereby all foreign-made ſail-cloth imported, uſually entered by the name of Holland's duck, or vitry canvas, fit for ſhips' ſails, and for which duties are payable, ſhould be ſtamped as ſuch on its importation, to prevent its paſſing for Britiſh-made ſail-cloth; and if found unſtamped, to be forfeited; and the importer of it to forfeit L50, all which was now confirmed;

and by the ſame act [19 *Geo. II, c.* 27] every veſſel built in Great Britain, and in his majeſty's plantations in America, muſt, at her firſt ſailing, be furniſhed with one full and complete ſet of new ſails, made of ſail-cloth manufactured in Great Britain, under the penalty of L50 on the maſter of the ſhip or veſſel. And every ſail-maker in Britain or the plantations, ſhall, on every new ſail, affix, in words at length a ſtamp of eight inches diameter, whereon his name and place of abode ſhall plainly appear, under the penalty of L10. All which particular clauſes were hereby to continue in force for ſeven years longer.

It being found by experience, that the cuſtom in England of making aſſurances, intereſt or no intereſt, or without farther proof of intereſt than the policy, has been productive of many pernicious practices; whereby great numbers of ſhips with their cargoes have either been fraudulently loſt and deſtroyed, or taken by the enemy in time of war; and that ſuch aſſurances have encouraged the exportation of wool, and the carrying on of many other prohibited trades, it was therefor now enacted, that no aſſurance ſhould be 'made on any ſhips belonging to 'his majeſty, or any of his ſubjects, or on any goods onboard any ſuch 'ſhip, intereſt or no intereſt, nor without farther proof of intereſt than 'the policy, nor by any way of gaming or wagering, or without benefit 'of ſalvage to the aſſurer: and that every ſuch aſſurance ſhall be null 'and void. Yet, 1ſt, aſſurance on private ſhips of war may be made 'for the owners thereof, intereſt or no intereſt: 2dly, any goods, mer'chandize, or effects, from any ports or places in Europe or America 'in the poſſeſſion of the crowns of Spain or Portugal may be aſſured 'in ſuch manner as if this act had not been made: 3dly, it ſhall not 'be lawful to make re-aſſurance, unleſs the inſurer ſhall be inſolvent, 'become a bankrupt, or ſhall die; in either of which caſes, re-aſſurance 'may be made: 4thly, all ſums to be lent on bottomry, or at reſpon'dentia, upon any Britiſh ſhip bound to Eaſt-India, ſhall be lent only 'on the ſhip, or on the merchandize onboard ſuch ſhip, and ſhall be ſo 'expreſſed in the bond; and benefit of ſalvage ſhall be allowed to the 'lender, who alone ſhall have a right to make aſſurance on the money 'ſo lent: and none ſhall recover more than the value of his intereſt on 'the ſhip or on its merchandize, excluſive of the money ſo borrowed: 'and if it appears, that the value of his ſhare in the ſhip or merchan'dize does not amount to the full ſum ſo borrowed, ſuch borrower 'ſhall be reſponſible to the lender for ſo much of the money borrowed 'as he hath not laid out on the ſhip or merchandize, with lawful inter'eſt, together with the aſſurance and charges, in the proportion the 'money not laid out ſhall bear to the whole money lent, notwithſtand'ing the ſhip and merchandize may be totally loſt: 5thly, in all actions 'the plaintiff ſhall declare within fifteen days, what ſums he has aſſur'ed: 6thly, perſons ſued on policies of aſſurance are to bring the mo-

'ney into court; and the plaintiff not accepting it with coſts, to be 'taxed, in full diſcharge; and ſhall afterwards proceed to trial in ſuch 'action, and the jury ſhall not aſſeſs greater damages to pay coſts than 'the money ſo brought into court; ſuch plaintiff, in every ſuch caſe, 'ſhall pay to ſuch defendant, in every ſuch action, coſts to be taxed.' [19 *Geo. II, c.* 37.]

In conſequence of an act of parliament of the preceding year 1745, for granting a reward of L20,000 to the diſcoverers of a north-weſt paſſage through Hudſon's bay to the ſeas of Japan and China, as already related, a ſubſcription for L10,000 was now ſet on foot, divided into 100 ſhares of L100 each, for fitting out two ſhips in ſearch of that paſſage. Thoſe ſhips wintered at Port-Nelſon in Hudſon's bay, and in the year following (1747) they made ſeveral attempts for a paſſage weſtward, but were obliged to return home the ſame year, quite diſheartened and unſucceſsful; as has alſo been another attempt ſince made from Philadelphia. Yet as this ſuppoſed paſſage was brought under the conſideration of parliament in the year 1749, we ſhall ſuſpend any farther obſervations thereon till we come to that year.

The following ſuccinct ſurvey is taken from voyages, and other modern accounts, publiſhed about this time, being a catalogue of all the forts, ſettlements, and factories, of the ſeveral European nations trading to, and in the way to, Eaſt-India, from the iſle of St. Helena quite to Japan; and which may give the reader a good general idea of Europe's correſpondence with Eaſt-India, viz.

Poſſeſſed by Great Britain,

The iſle of St. Helena, ſituated in the 16th degree of ſouth latitude, about 1200 miles weſt of the African coaſt, and 1800 miles eaſt of South-America, being almoſt an entire rock, with a thin covering of vegetative earth, about 20 miles in circumference, with only one paſſage up to it, well fortified. It contains about 200 families, who have ſufficient produce to ſupply our Eaſt-India ſhips in their way from India, (and thoſe of other nations we are in peace with) with freſh proviſions, fruits, and vegetables: but it is difficult for ſhips going to India to find it, becauſe of the winds.

Balſora, or Baſſora, at the upper end of the Perſian gulf, at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates. Here is a Britiſh, and alſo a Dutch, factory. Hither come many ſhips from ſeveral nations of Europe and Aſia, it being a place of great commerce. This place is alſo commodious to the Engliſh and Dutch for conveying their letters home over land by way of Aleppo.

Gomroon, alſo in the Perſian gulf, has both an Engliſh and Dutch factory, and ſubordinate inland ones at Iſpahan; there being a conſiderable trade carried on betwixt this place and India.

To Mocha in Arabia, near the mouth of the Red ſea, the Britiſh and

Dutch companies reſort for its coffee, hitherto the beſt in the world; but they have no ſettled factories there.

1747.—In Cambaya (a province of India) the Engliſh company have a preſident and council at Surat, who have, or lately had, the ſupreme direction of the commerce on all the weſt coaſt of Malabar. Its ſubordinate factories are at Agra, Amadabat, Lahor, &c. but not always confined to ſuch places. At Anjengo the company built a fort in the year 1695.

The iſland, town, and port, of Bombay on the Malabar coaſt is a ſovereignty of our company's; of which enough has been ſaid elſewhere. And on the ſame coaſt there are factories at Calicut, Telichery, Dabul, and Carwar, which laſt is famous for the beſt pepper in India; for which reaſon our company has a fort there, as well as a factory; but pepper grows in general all over India, and therefor cannot be monopolized.

On the Coromandel coaſt, Britain has Fort St. George, having only an open road, and the adjoining black town of Madras. It is but a week's journey from the diamond mines of Golconda, held of the mogul. To the governor and council of this place all the factories eaſtward, or beyond the Malabar coaſt, are ſubordinate; as,

Fort St. David, and the leſſer ones of Vizagapatan, Ganjam, &c. on that coaſt.

In the kingdom and bay of Bengal, the Engliſh company have Fort William at Calcutta, Ballalore, Coſimbazar, Dacca, Patana, and ſome other ſubordinate factories; though their later ſucceſsful conflicts with the French, in thoſe parts, have ſince made conſiderable alterations in this part of India.

In the great iſland of Sumatra, our company have a fort and factory at Bencoolen; alſo Fort-Marlborough, near it, and ſome other ſubordinate factories.

In the iſland of Borneo the Engliſh have a factory at Benjar.

By the Dutch Eaſt-India company are held the following, viz.

The extenſive and conſtantly-improving colony of the moſt famous ſouthern point of Africa, called the Cape of Good Hope, in full ſovereignty, with all its forts; where the ſhips of all nations in amity with the ſtates-general of the united Netherlands have liberty to ſtop and refreſh: under it is the iſland of Mauritius, eaſtward of Madagaſcar.

A factory at Baſſora, before mentioned.

A factory at Surat, under which are many ſubordinate ones.

On the weſt coaſt of Malabar, the Dutch company have Rajapore, Barcelor, Cananor, Panane, Cranganor, Cochin (taken from the Portugueſe in the year 1662, after being poſſeſſed by them 150 years, and ſo fortified as to be deemed impregnable: it is their principal ſettlement on this coaſt) Porcha, Carnapole, Coulan, Tegnapatan, Calecutt, &c. all taken from Portugal.

The entire coaſt, ports, and forts, of the iſland of Ceylon, in full and abſolute property, and the abſolute engroſſment of the beſt cinnamon in the world.

In the iſland of Manaar, they have Teutecorin and Manapaar.

On the coaſt of Coromandel, they have Negapatan, Porto-Novo, Sadraſpatan, Cabelon, Palicat, famous for cotton cloths, (their chief fort and factory of that coaſt, and of Pegu; it was retaken by the Dutch company in 1719 from the Portugueſe, who had held it ever ſince the year 1613, when they drove out the Dutch with great ſlaughter) Caletour, Maſulipatan, Binlipatan, &c.

In Bengal, Huguely, (the chief factory) Balaſore, Coſimbazar, Malda, Barnagal, Chinchura, Patana, Dacca, &c.

In the peninſula of Malacca, the ſtrong fort and territory of that name.

In the iſland of Sumatra, the Dutch company have factories at Acheen, Padang, Palimbam, Priaman, Bancalis, Siaque, &c.

In Java, they have the great and ſtrong city of Batavia, the capital and dernier reſort of all their Eaſt-India forts, ſettlements, and factories; with a far-extended territory adjoining: alſo, in the ſame iſland they have factories at Bantam, Cheraban, Tagal, Japara, Rombang, Sorobay, &c.

In the kingdom of Siam, factories at Siam, its capital, and at Ligore.

And at Aracan, in the kingdom of that name.

In the iſland of Celebes, they have Macaſſar, its capital.

In the iſlands of Borneo, Solor, Buro, Poleroon, Noro, Ceram, Ambay, &c. the Dutch company have forts or factories; and in the ſpice-iſlands of Amboyna, Ternate, Banda, Timor, &c. they are abſolute ſovereigns, poſſeſſing ſolely and excluſively all the cloves, nutmegs, and mace; ſpices nowhere elſe to be found upon earth, that is as yet certainly known.

In Perſia, Gomroon, and under it Iſpahan and Balſora.

Thoſe of the French Eaſt-India company in India, were,

A factory at Surat.

On the coaſt of Coromandel, the ſtrong fort and very populous town of Pondicherry, with ſome ſubordinate ones. Piece-goods, diamonds, and rice, being the ſtaple merchandize, not only here, but on all this coaſt. It has, however, no harbour, being only an open road like Fort St. George, where they load and unload their merchandize by boats.

In Bengal, they have Balaſore and Charnagar, &c.

The French iſland of Bourbon (formerly called Maſcareen) to the eaſtward of the great iſland of Madagaſcar, ſerves principally for a refreſhing place for their Eaſt-India ſhips; they have alſo, more lately, raiſed quantities of coffee therein, and made ſundry other good improvements.

The Portugueſe, as already noted, were once lords-paramount of all the trade of Europe to Eaſt-India, from whom the Dutch gradually plucked off the beſt feathers of their wings. What they have ſtill left is but inconſiderable, compared with what they have loſt, or with thoſe of England and Holland, though they ſtill retain a great ſound.

On the north-eaſt coaſt of Africa, beyond the Cape of Good Hope, they have Quiloa, Mombaza, Melinda, Mozambique, Magadoxa, &c. ports very uſeful in their voyages to and from India, originally ſettled by them for that end. They alſo get conſiderable quantities of gold and drugs from thence.

In Cambaya, they ſtill retain the ſtrong forts of Diu and Daman, often in vain beſieged by great armies of the Moguls.

On the Malabar coaſt, Baſſaim near the iſland of Salſet, Choul, and Bandara: Goa, on the ſame coaſt, is the capital of all their Eaſt-India ſettlements, now inconſiderable for its commerce, and much decayed from its antient ſplendour. Alſo the iſlands of Elephant, Carranjaa, Anjediva; alſo Annanor, Cavarda, Mangalor, and Moor's-Fort.

On the Coromandel coaſt, they have St. Thomas, or Meliapour.

And, laſtly, they have ſtill Macao, an iſland in the mouth of Canton river in China, but tributary to, and abſolutely at the mercy of, the Chineſe.

The Danes have long poſſeſſed the port and fort of Tranquebar, on the Coromandel coaſt, and the ſubordinate one of Daneſburg.

The Swedes have as yet no eſtabliſhed factories in India, though they generally ſend one or two ſhips yearly thither. Neither have they at preſent any ſettlements anywhere out of their own kingdom, but in Germany.

Spain poſſeſſes the beſt forts of the Philippine iſlands, as Manilla, the capital town and port of the large iſland of that name, otherwiſe called Lucon; to which port of Manilla the Spaniards, from Acapulco in Mexico, generally ſend two great ſhips yearly. But Spain can carry on no trade at all directly from Europe to Eaſt-India, being bound by treaty with Portugal, not to ſail thither by the Cape of Good Hope, as well as by the general treaty of Weſtphalia in the year 1648.

The Dutch Eaſt-India company are the only Europeans who have any trade to the empire of Japan, from their great emporium of Batavia; but they are not permitted to have any fort or factory at Japan.

Neither are any of the European nations, who trade to China, permitted to have factories there. The Engliſh company had formerly ſettlements on the coaſts of Cochin-China and Tonquin, but now they only trade thither occaſionally. It is not the deſign of our work to relate all the ſquabbles which the ſeveral European nations have had with each other in India, or with the ſeveral nations of the Eaſt (that being

largely done by voyagers long ſince) but merely to point out the general extent of their commerce in that remote part of the world.

After the rebellion of the years 1745 and 1746, the legiſlature at length wiſely determined to enact, what ſhould undoubtedly have been made an eſſential preliminary of the conſolidating union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, concluded 40 years before, whereby, and not till now, the true and ſolid liberty of the people of Scotland was eſtabliſhed, not only in thoſe parts of that country called the Highlands, where clanſhip, or an abject ſubmiſſion of the bulk of the people to the ſovereign will of their chieftains, had prevailed from the earlieſt times, but even, though in a leſſer degree, in ſundry parts of the low country of Scotland; that is to ſay, it was now legally determined to put all the people of Scotland upon the ſame equitable and rational footing of liberty and property with their fellow-ſubjects of England, by an act of parliament, for taking away and aboliſhing the heritable juriſdictions in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, and for making ſatisfaction to the proprietors thereof; and for reſtoring ſuch juriſdictions to the crown; and for making more effectual proviſion for the adminiſtration of juſtice throughout that part of the united kingdom, by the king's courts and judges there, &c. The preamble ſets forth, 'that for remedying the inconveniences that have ariſen, and may ariſe, 'from the multiplicity and extent of heritable juriſdictions in that part 'of Great Britain called Scotland; for making ſatisfaction to the pro-'prietors thereof; for reſtoring to the crown the powers of juriſdiction 'originally and properly belonging thereto, according to the conſtitu-'tion; and for extending the influence, benefit, and protection, of the 'king's laws and courts of juſtice to all his majeſty's ſubjects in Scot-'land; and for rendering the union more complete; it was enacted, 1ſt, 'that all heritable juriſdiction of juſticiary, and all regalities and heri-'table baillieries, and all heritable conſtabularies, other than the office 'of high conſtable of Scotland, and all ſtewartries, being parts only of 'ſhires or counties; and all ſheriffſhips, and deputy-ſheriffſhips of diſ-'tricts, being parts only of ſhires or counties in Scotland, poſſeſſed or 'claimed by any ſubject; and all juriſdictions, powers, authorities, and 'privileges, thereunto appurtenant, annexed, or dependent thereupon, 'ſhall be hereby, from lady-day 1748, abrogated, taken away, and to-'tally diſſolved and extinguiſhed.

'Provided, that all lands annexed to the ſaid heritable baillieries, 'ſtewartries, and conſtabularies, and the rents and duties, conſiſting in 'money, victual, cattle, or other goods, ſhall remain, and belong to, 'them, and their heirs and ſucceſſors, and continue to be enjoyed by, 'and paid to, them, notwithſtanding the extinction of the ſaid offices.

'2dly, That all the before-named juriſdictions, powers, &c. belong-'ing to ſuch offices, ſhall thenceforth be veſted in, and exerciſed by,

'the court of ſeſſion and court of juſticiary at Edinburgh, the judges 'in the ſeveral circuits, and the courts of the ſeveral ſheriffs and ſtewarts 'of ſhires or counties in Scotland, reſpectively; and that the ſeveral 'towns, villages, diſtricts, and bounds, which were ſubject to ſuch heri-'table offices and juriſdictions hereby diſſolved, and the inhabitants 'thereof, ſhall thenceforth be ſolely ſubject to the juriſdiction and au-'thority of the before-named courts, and to ſuch other of the king's 'courts reſpectively, as the ſaid inhabitants would have been ſubject to, 'in caſe ſuch hereditary juriſdictions and offices had never exiſted.

'3dly, That from thenceforth, all ſuch heritable juriſdictions in 'Scotland, not hereby before extinguiſhed, granted to, or poſſeſſed by, 'any ſubject, either heritably or for life, ſhall be hereby reſumed, 'and annexed to the crown; and that the ſheriffs and ſtewarts ſhall 'from thenceforth be nominated and appointed by his majeſty, his 'heirs, and ſucceſſors.

'Provided, that no ſheriffſhip or ſtewartry in Scotland ſhall at any 'time hereafter be granted to any perſon whatſoever, either heritably 'or for life, or for any certain term exceeding one year; and, that no 'juſticiary, regality, conſtabulary, or bailliery, nor any judicature, au-'thority, &c. of the like nature ſhall, at any time hereafter, be erected 'or granted in Scotland.

'4thly, Reaſonable pecuniary compenſation ſhall be allowed to the 'poſſeſſors of all ſuch heritable juriſdictions hereby abrogated, and to 'every clerk thereof; and claims thereof ſhall be duely entered and ex-'amined for this end, and be laid before the parliament.

'Provided alſo, that no baron, or heritor, or proprietor of lands in 'Scotland, ſhall henceforth, in criminal caſes, exerciſe any juriſdiction 'whatſoever, other than aſſaults and ſmaller crimes, for which the pu-'niſhment ſhall only be a fine not exceeding 20/ ſterling; or by ſetting 'in the ſtocks, for at moſt three hours in the day-time, or elſe by im-'priſonment not exceeding one month. And, in civil cauſes, ſuch ba-'ron, or his baillie, ſhall hold no plea, nor judge in any cauſe exceed-'ing 40/ ſterling, other than for recovering from the vaſſals or tenants 'of his lands and heritages, their rents, or the dues of their mills. Pri-'ſons ſhall have windows or grates, open to inſpection from without, ſo 'as the priſoner may be viſited and converſed with; and none to be 'impriſoned but by warrant, expreſſing the cauſe of impriſonment.

'Provided, however, that the juriſdiction of fairs and markets, of 'coal-works, ſalt-works, and mines, be, as formerly, reſerved to their 'heritors; but without a power of inferring the loſs of life or demem-'bration. Provided alſo, that nothing in this act ſhall extend to preju-'diſe the juriſdiction veſted by law in any royal borough in Scotland, 'or, in cumulative caſes, to burghs of regality and barony.' The reſt of this long act relates to poindings, or ſeizures, to the regulations and

qualifications of ſheriffs and their deputies, circuit courts, and appeals therefrom in certain civil cauſes, and to fines, &c. [20 *Geo. II, c.* 43.]

This excellent ſtatute may, not unfitly, be termed a new magna charta to the free people of Scotland, who, from this time (though perhaps not merely or ſolely in direct conſequence thereof, but alſo from other concurring cauſes) have undoubtedly moſt viſibly increaſed in commerce, manufactures, wealth, and general induſtry, to a degree ſaid to be almoſt amazing, to ſuch as, after ſome year's abſence, have lately viſited that part of the united kingdom: ſo great is the influence of liberty in favour of induſtry and commerce.

It having been found by experience that the tenure of lands in Scotland by ward-holding, and the conſequences of the ſame, being the caſualties of ward-marriage and recognition, had been much more burdenſome and prejudicial to the vaſſals by that tenure than beneficial to the ſuperiors, it was aboliſhed by the 50th ſtatute of the ſame ſeſſion, for taking away the tenure of ward-holding in Scotland, &c. which enacted, 'that the ſame be converted into blanch-holding and feu-holdings, &c. to be farther regulated, with reſpect to the recompenſe, by the court of ſeſſion in Scotland,' &c. This act ſeems to have been all that was wanting for completing the freedom of vaſſals in Scotland *.

The European ſhips at China this year were 8 Engliſh, 6 Dutch, 4 Swediſh, and 2 Daniſh; in all 20. France being at war with Great Britain, there were no French ſhips there this year.

The planters in the Engliſh ſugar colonies, in the infancy of thoſe plantations, had cultivated conſiderable quantities of indigo, as being always a great merchantable commodity, whereby their mother-country was then well ſupplied therewith. Some authors have related, that, in the iſland of Jamaica, indigo was produced in ſuch abundance, eſpecially in the pariſh of Vere, that 300 coaches have been ſeen at that pariſh-church on Sundays. But a tax of 3/6 per pound weight being laid by the legiſlature on indigo, the planters of Jamaica dropped the cultivation thereof entirely; and though the parliament afterwards repealed that duty, yet a manufacture once loſt is not eaſily regained, more eſpecially in a country ſo expenſive as Jamaica is. Yet what that people were not able or willing to effect, has at length been brought to bear by the induſtrious planters of Carolina, greatly to their honour, and, we hope, to their future great benefit. In ſucceeding times the other Weſt-India iſlands found that the ſugar-cane was beyond all other things the moſt gainful; and therefor they alſo gradually dropped the cultivation of indigo. Nevertheleſs, the French iſlands in the neighbourhood of ours, inſtead of following that example, went on with an-

* This year the dividend of the bank of England was reduced from *five and a half* to *five* per cent per annum. [*Account inſerted in the appendix to Allardyce's Addreſs to the proprietors of the bank.*] *M.*

nually increaſing their quantity of indigo; inſomuch that (excepting what comes from Eaſt-India, and ſome which Spain imports from her American colonies) France, till about this time, ſupplied the greateſt part of Europe with it from their Weſt-India iſlands; and Britain and Ireland have been reckoned to pay to France about L200,000 annually for indigo. This would probably have been the caſe ſtill, had not the people of Carolina made this year a ſucceſsful attempt to propagate indigo in that province. The planters had by this time carried the production of rice to ſuch a height, that, even in time of peace, its quantity had overſtocked thoſe parts of Europe to which they were wont to ſend it, ſo that they got but little by it; the caſe was ſtill worſe when the war with France broke out in 1743, by reaſon of the high freight and inſurances. This put them upon trying to employ their negroes on ſundry new manufactures of linen, woollen, &c. which they were before accuſtomed to take from Great Britain; of which their mother-country would ſoon have become jealous, and which, moreover, did not much turn out to their own particular advantage. Upon this occaſion it was very fortunate for them, that the true indigo plant happened to be diſcovered growing ſpontaneouſly almoſt everywhere there; whereupon eſſays began to be made a year or two preceding this year, 1747; and the indigo anſwered expectation ſo far, that in this ſame year about 200,000 pounds weight of it was ſhipped for England, and ſold very well, though not at firſt quite ſo well cured as the French indigo. This ſucceſs produced a petition to parliament from the Carolina merchants in April 1748 for a ſmall bounty on the importation of indigo from Carolina, whereby the planters might be encouraged to proceed ſo far, as not only to ſupply Great Britain and Ireland, but likewiſe foreign markets, with ſo uſeful a commodity; while, at the ſame time, petitions were encouraged from merchants, clothiers, and dyers, from all parts of England, in favour of this new production, ſince brought to perfection; and that as indigo is a commodity, without which a good blue colour cannot be dyed, a bounty might be allowed on its importation in ſomewhat near the terms of the Carolina merchants' petition. Thereupon an act paſſed [21 *Geo. II, c.* 30] for allowing 6*d* per pound weight on all indigo raiſed in any of the Britiſh American colonies, and imported into Great Britain directly from the place of its growth; which has ſince then had a very good and ſucceſsful effect.

1748.—In the beginning of 1748 an attempt was made in parliament, and a bill brought into the houſe of commons, for the revival of the ſtatute [7 *Anne, c.* 5] in behalf of a general naturalization: but it was thrown out by a great majority. The ſubſtance of the reaſons for rejecting it was, that we had poor proteſtants of our own, even more than we could well provide for; and as a moderate expenſe would en-

able any foreign proteſtants, who ſhall have brought any ſubſtance with them ſufficient, to obtain an act of parliament for that end, ſuch only were worth our while to be received and ſettled with us. This was again brought into parliament in April 1751, but was then alſo rejected. On the other hand, let us, on this occaſion, ſee what Lord Moleſworth, a very able nobleman, has ſaid on that ſubject, *(in the preface to his Engliſh tranſlation of Hottoman's Franco-Gallia, p. 23, ed. 1721.)*

'What ſhould hinder us from an act of general naturalization? eſpecially when we conſider that no private acts of that kind are refuſed. But the expenſe is ſo great that few attempt to procure them, and the benefit which the public receives thereby is therefor ſo inconſiderable. Experience has ſhewn us the folly and falſity of thoſe plauſible inſinuations, that ſuch a naturalization would take the bread out of Engliſhmen's mouths. We are convinced that the greater number of workmen of one trade there is in any town, the more does that town thrive; and the greater will be the demand for the manufacture, the vent to foreign parts, and the quicker circulation of the coin. The conſumption of the produce, both of land and induſtry, increaſes viſibly in towns full of people; nay, the more ſhall every induſtrious perſon thrive in ſuch a place; though indeed drones and idlers will not find their account, who would fain ſupport their ſuperfluous expenſes at their neighbours' coſt, who make one or two days labour provide for four days extravagance. And this is the common calamity of moſt of our corporation-towns, whoſe inhabitants do all they can to diſcourage plenty, induſtry, and population; and will not admit of ſtrangers but upon too hard terms, through the falſe notion that they themſelves, their children, and apprentices, have the only right to ſquander their town's revenue, and to get, at their own rates, all that is to be gotten within their precincts. And therefor ſuch towns are, at beſt, at a ſtand, very few in a thriving condition, and theſe are where their bye laws are leaſt reſtrictive: but moſt throughout England fall to viſible decay, whilſt new villages, not incorporated, or towns more liberal of their privileges, grow up in their ſtead, till in proceſs of time the firſt ſort will become almoſt as deſolate as Old Sarum in Wiltſhire, and will as well deſerve to loſe their right of ſending repreſentatives to parliament. For certainly a waſte or a deſert has no right to be repreſented, nor by our original conſtitution was ever intended ſo to be.'

His lordſhip had immediately before ſaid, 'that it is a truth which few will make a doubt of, that we are not one third part peopled, though better ſo in proportion than any other part of Europe, Holland excepted; and that our ſtock of men decreaſes dayly, through our wars, plantations, and ſea-voyages.'

4 F

This year the populace in Holland compelled their rulers to aboliſh the old exciſe-duty, amounting to ten millions of gilders for that ſingle province; whereby we have learned, in ſome degree at leaſt, the proportion of the wealth which the ſeveral other places of that moſt populous province bear to its mighty metropolis, viz.

	Gilders.
Amſterdam paid annually	3,802.720
Roterdam (about one fourth part of Amſterſtam)	997,950
Harlem (above one fifth)	801,200
Leyden (above one fifth)	783.130
Dort (almoſt one ſeventh)	511,960
Gouda (almoſt one eighth)	459,500
Alkmaer	267,100
Briel	232,290
Delft, Schiedam, and the Hague,	1,492,860
Hoorn	153,240
Gornichem	141,760
Enchuyſen	105,060
Monickendam	68,420
Purmerend	61,260
Medenblick	45,460
The iſlands on the coaſt of Holland	42,740
Edam	33,350
Total,	10,000,000

While the new ſubſidy of five per cent on imported commodities was in debate, the ſugar-planters and Weſt-India merchants, greatly alarmed thereat, publiſhed ſundry eſſays, tending to ſhew the ruin, or at leaſt the great detriment, which that duty (which however took place) would bring on the ſugar colonies. From thoſe eſſays, as well as from the cuſtom-houſe accounts, then laid before the parliament, we may gather the true ſtate of the Britiſh ſugar trade compared with that of France, taking the year 1742 for the rule; probably, becauſe we were in that year at peace with France, though at war with Spain, viz.

Sugars produced in the French Weſt-India iſlands in 1742, viz.

	Cwt.
In Martinico, Guadaloupe, and the other leſſer iſlands	622,500
In Hiſpaniola (or St. Domingo)	848,000
Total,	1,470.500

Being about the quantity of 122,500 hogſheads of 12 hundred weight each.

Sugars produced in the Britiſh Weſt-India iſles in 1742.

	Hogſheads.		
Imported into Great Britain -	60,950		
Shipped from our iſlands to the northern colonies, and to foreign markets -	5,000		
Total hogſheads	65,950	or	791,400 cwt.
Of which 60,950 hogſheads there are exported from Great Britain to Ireland, and to all foreign markets -	5,236		
Conſumed in Great Britain -	55,714		

Hogſheads (at about L25 per hogſhead) 60,950 or about 731,400 cwt.
Total produced in that year more by the French than by the Engliſh - - - - 679,100 cwt.

This ſadly ſhewed the almoſt incredible improvements, which France had made in her ſugar iſlands in about forty years, whereby they were at this time enabled to underſell us in moſt places of Europe. Though, we truſt, the time is ſince at length come, or at hand, that we ſhall regain our former great exportation of ſugars and other Weſt-India commodities to foreign parts.

Thoſe eſſays however admit, that in times of profound peace, both with France and Spain, our ſugar iſlands may produce 75,000 hogſheads of ſugar annually, 12 hundred-weight each hogſhead. Of which 70,000 may be annually imported into Great Britain; which, at L15 per hogſhead, comes to - - - L1,050,000

And 5000 hogſheads ſent directly from thoſe iſlands to North-America and to foreign markets, at L10 each; with 50,000 hogſheads of rum and melaſſes, at L6 on an average per hogſhead - - - 350,000

Total value in ſterling money, L1,400,000

The tendency of theſe reaſonings was to demonſtrate, that the high price of our ſugars was not owing to our planters extravagant profits, but merely to the ſmall quantities produced in ſome years. They alſo admitted, that ſince France has ſo vaſtly improved her colonies, there is more ſugar made in all America (including the Spaniſh, Portugueſe, Dutch, and Daniſh colonies) in ſome favourable years, than all Europe can conſume; which was particularly the reaſon of the low price of ſugars between the years 1728 and 1735. Now, ſay theſe eſſays, if the value of the coffee, pimento, logwood, and mahogany, from Jamaica, and of the ginger, cotton, and drugs, from that and other Britiſh ſugar iſlands, be added to the foregoing account, the importations from thoſe iſlands may probably amount to L1,500,000 yearly.

There were alſo, while the bill for that duty was depending in parliament, ſundry accounts publiſhed by the tobacco merchants for preventing that commodity being included therein. And it appeared upon a medium of three years, (1744—46) in the cuſtom-houſe books, that there was imported into England alone (omitting the odd hundred thouſands) forty millions of pounds weight of tobacco from our American plantations. And by the like medium there was exported thirty-three millions: ſo that England annually conſumed ſeven millions of pounds weight of tobacco.

And if England alone were to pay the duty of $4\frac{3}{4}d$ per pound on the ſaid forty millions of pounds, it would amount in ſterling money to - - - -	L791,666	13	4
But as thirty-three millions of pounds are annually exported, and the whole duty thereof drawn back, the duty is to be deducted - - -	653,125	0	0
So the net duty of the ſeven millions conſumed in England is - - - -	138,541	13	4
Now, valuing the thirty-three millions of pounds of tobacco at $6d$ per pound weight, that will be	825,000	0	0
And if Scotland may be allowed to export annually ſeven millions of pounds, that, at $6d$ per pound, likewiſe comes to - - -	175,000	0	0
There will then be annually exported from Great Britain forty millions of pounds, which, at $6d$ per pound, comes to - - -	1,000,000	0	0

This ſum may be deemed to be all clear gain to the nation, over and above this trade giving employment to about 25,000 tons of Britiſh ſhipping. Some of the printed accounts publiſhed on this particular occaſion, for influencing the legiſlature in favour of our tobacco colonies, (and which therefor are to be read with ſome caution, like all others publiſhed for ſuch particular ends) make our annual importation of tobacco into Great Britain to be, one year with another, about 80,000 hogſheads, weighing 900 pound weight each, or 72 millions of pounds. And they generally ſuppoſed one fourth part thereof, or 18 millions, to be conſumed at home; and that the remaining 54 millions were annually re-exported for foreign conſumption.

Others ſtated our total annual importation of tobacco at but 62,000 hogſheads, or 55,800,000 pounds; and that England alone conſumes 12,000 hogſheads thereof, which, if all paid the duty of $4\frac{3}{4}d$ per lb. would yield L213,750 to the crown. But, as conſiderable quantities are ſmuggled inwards for home-conſumption, the whole duty may not be

above £150,000, and according to others of thoſe papers, but £130,000. Whereas, ſay they, if the whole for home-conſumption paid the duty, it would yield much more: which ſhews the great loſs to the revenue, only in this one ſingle article, by ſmuggling.

In April this year application was made to parliament by the expiring royal African company, for committing the management of their forts and factories, for the preſervation whereof the commons did not ſeem inclined to truſt that company any more with money, to a new company, with a ſuitable joint ſtock: which company they propoſed ſhould have 'the licencing and regulating the whole buſineſs of pawn-'brokers, for preventing their buying or lending money on ſtolen 'goods, and for reducing their exorbitant rates of 50, 40, and 30, per 'cent per annum, for intereſt or premium, to 20 per cent at fartheſt.' Which ſcheme was to lay the foundation of their propoſed joint ſtock.

At the ſame time the creditors of the royal African company petitioned the houſe of commons for having their claim paid out of the ſuppoſed value of that company's forts on that coaſt, now valued at £150,000, and propoſed to be paid by the new company to the old one. This plauſible project had two different views, viz. hereby the old company would be enabled to pay all their debts, the greateſt part whereof was due to themſelves (i. e. to the directors and their friends) and would, over and above, have probably a dividend to make on their then merely nominal capital, on its diſſolution.

2dly, That the propoſed new company ſhould ſpring up out of the ruins of the old one and their creditors, with a few others of their friends, and would, doubtleſs, have made a good intereſt on the money they ſhould advance for the above purpoſes, out of the ſcheme for the regulation of pawn-brokers. In ſupport of this plauſible ſcheme, the old company and their creditors inſiſted, that £150,000 was a very moderate valuation of their forts on the African ſhores; not only conſidering their very great uſefulneſs againſt the treachery and inſults of the natives, but likewiſe for defence againſt the frequent encroachments of other European competitors with large joint ſtocks. That ſo far is the objection ſo often made from being juſt, viz. that if all our forts in Africa were to be demoliſhed, excepting Cape-Coaſt-Caſtle, and James-Fort in the river Gambia, thoſe two forts, together with two or three ſhips of war always cruiſing thereabout, would be ſufficient to protect the trade of the whole coaſt; that there is actually need of more forts than we now have, particularly at Anamaboe and Sierra Leoné, and alſo higher up on the river Gambia, where the French are ſtriving to ſupplant us. It is admitted, that ſhips of war, jointly with all the forts, are needful; but, without our forts, that would by no means anſwer our purpoſe on ſo uncivilized a coaſt; where, for that reaſon, a joint-ſtock company is much better calculated for protecting the commerce

than any number of private perſons can be. Alſo, that thoſe forts are very uſeful for our negro trade, without which our American plantations could not be ſupported, more eſpecially as the beſt negroes are purchaſed on thoſe coaſts where the company's forts and ſettlements are: from which coaſts alſo we import gold, ivory, bees'-wax, beaver, and many other valuable commodities, in exchange for Britiſh manufactures and our own Eaſt-India merchandize. Laſtly, without ſuch forts and ſettlements, it would be not only extremely difficult to protect, and, in caſes of diſtreſs, to relieve, our ſhips trading on that coaſt, but alſo to ſecure the inland trade thereof. Notwithſtanding all which, at leaſt ſpecious, propoſals, the African company's papers remained on the table to the end of that ſeſſion of parliament: ſo difficult did our legiſlators find it at this time effectually to ſettle that trade.

All parties being weary of war, a peace was concluded at Aix-la-Chapelle, whereby all that had been conquered by France in the Auſtrian and Dutch Netherlands was reſtored to their reſpective ſovereigns. Moreover, between Great Britain and France it was ſtipulated mutually to reſtore whatever forts or territories had during this war been taken on either ſide: whereby Fort St. George in India was reſtored to our Eaſt-India company; as, on the other hand, the iſland of Cape-Breton, and its town and fortreſs of Louiſburg, were reſtored to France.

Spain indeed acceded to the general peace, but without any particular ſtipulations in point of commerce with Great Britain. What related to the South-ſea company's commerce, on one hand, and the depredations of the Spaniſh guarda-coſtas, on the other, being referred to the diſagreeable and tedious way of negociating, by Sir Benjamin Keene, at Madrid. In the meantime, it was plain, that the court of Spain never intended to permit another annual South-ſea ſhip to trade to their Weſt-Indies, there being but about four years to run of the term of that contract, (viz. forty years from 1713 to 1753) the ſeveral interruptions of the trade being deducted or allowed for. And while this ſuſpenſion continued, many things paſſed in converſation, and ſundry eſſays were publiſhed for and againſt that manner of trading. In favour of it, it was ſaid, that the great annual ſhip uſually conveyed about L250,000 value in manufactures from hence to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, for the company's account; and that in each of thoſe great ſhips there went about L50,000 more in private trade: upon which trade, it was alleged, a profit of near cent per cent was made: that therefor the gain to the nation was greater this way than in the old channel of our trade by the way of Cadiz, even though the Jamaica ſmuggling trade were included therein: and that, though the South-ſea company might not be ſo great gainers, yet their factors, agents, &c. brought home great fortunes, frequently in a very ſhort ſpace of time; and our annual ſhip's

cargoes kept the French, Dutch, &c. from ſupplying the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, to our great emolument.

On the other hand, it was aſſerted, and very generally believed, that the South-ſea annual ſhip had occaſioned a vaſt decreaſe of our annual exports to Spain, ſome ſaid even ſo much as to one half of former exports; whilſt, at the ſame time, our imports from Spain have been gradually increaſing: that the ſuperiority of our arms forced the aſſiento contract on Spain againſt their inclinations, and on that ſcore the Spaniſh court and traders have diſcouraged our manufactures formerly ſent to Cadiz, and encouraged thoſe of France, Flanders, and Holland: that of the cargoes of our annual ſhip itſelf, a great deal conſiſted of the merchandize of foreign nations, and particularly of thoſe of France and Holland, for aſſortments for the Spaniſh markets in America: that the aſſiento contract had enhanced the price of negroes for our own colonies: that our ſupplying the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies ſo regularly with negroes had encouraged them to raiſe greater quantities of ſugar and tobacco, to the detriment of our own: that the Spaniſh court having always effects of the South-ſea company's in their American ports, had it conſtantly in their power to make ſeizures of thoſe effects on various, and often unjuſt, pretences. Thus, in the year 1718 the company's loſs hereby was computed at about L225,000 ſterling; and in 1727, at about half as much more; beſides the ſeizure by the war now concluded, and not yet juſtly computed; and the many other violences of the Spaniſh American governors and agents. Finally, as the company had undoubtedly, upon the whole, been loſers by their trade, and as they had only four years more of their aſſiento term remaining, which Spain was determined not to renew, at leaſt on any promiſing terms; for theſe reaſons it was concluded by the Britiſh court, to inſtruct the miniſter at Madrid to obtain the beſt equivalent that could be procured for the remaining ſhort term of the company's aſſiento contract: the reſult of which ſhall be ſhewn in its place.

By a ſtatute of the 21ſt year of King George II, the fund of the orphans of the city of London was farther prolonged and ſecured, by continuing the 6*d* per chaldron, or ton, on coals and culm, which was to expire at michaelmas 1750 by the 5th and 6th of William and Mary, for thirty-five years longer, for the following purpoſes, viz. 1ſt, for raiſing L3000 yearly to the mercers company, for payment of their annuities and debts; and, 2dly, the reſidue thereof for making part of the orphans fund, for the benefit of which alſo all the city manors, lands, &c. ſhall ſtand charged with the yearly ſum of L2000, over and above the L8000 applied by former laws. And, as the fund for raiſing the 4 per cent intereſt on the orphans capital ſtock has produced a very large ſurplus, including L21,735: 17: 9 due at midſummer 1748, to make good the yearly ſum of L2000, which by a former act ought to

have been raiſed on the perſonal eſtates of the citizens, this ſurplus ſhall be applied to pay off the principal ſum of the orphans debt. No orphan under age ſhall be paid off, ſo long as there ſhall be others not orphans, or not under age, to be paid off. The chamberlain of London ſhall yearly, at michaelmas, lay before both houſes of parliament an account of the ſurplus ariſen on the ſaid fund, what has been paid off the principal, and what ſhall remain thereof unpaid off.

By a ſcheme, publiſhed in 1755, for building a new bridge over the Thames from Blackfriars, the above ſurplus, on an average of five years to midſummer 1755, amounted to L4444 per annum, upon which the propoſer was for raiſing annuities for lives, which with L20,000 more to be raiſed by voluntary ſubſcription, he ſays, would raiſe a ſum ſufficient to build ſuch a bridge. He alſo ſays, that the whole orphans debt amounted at midſummer 1755 to L687,234 : 6 : 10.

1749.—We have ſeen that ſeveral ſtatutes have been made at different times to encourage the ſubjects of Great Britain to carry on and improve the whale fiſhery : and as the enlargement thereof would be of very great advantage to our trade and navigation, an act of parliament paſſed, whereby the ſeveral acts of parliament in favour of that fiſhery were now farther continued : and, over and above the allowance of 20ſ per ton enacted by the 6th, and continued by the 13th, of King George II, a farther bounty or allowance was hereby granted of 20ſ more per ton. Moreover, for the encouragement of the Britiſh colonies in America in this fiſhery, and to promote the building of large ſhips there, it was hereby farther enacted, that every ſhip built or fitted out in any of thoſe colonies, being 200 tons and upwards, and not more than two years old from the firſt building thereof, ſetting out from any port of the Britiſh American dominions on the whale fiſhery, manned and navigated according to the navigation acts, and properly fitted and furniſhed for that fiſhery, ſhall likewiſe be entitled to the ſaid joint bounty of 40ſ per ton, on her arrival from the whale fiſhery in ſome port of Great Britain, on certain farther conditions therein ſtipulated. Foreign proteſtants who ſhall ſerve three years onboard Britiſh whale-fiſhery ſhips, and ſhall take the uſual qualification oaths, ſhall be deemed natural-born ſubjects of Great Britain to all intents and purpoſes, as far as other foreign proteſtants can ſo be; provided they ſhall have received the ſacrament of the Lord's ſupper in ſome Britiſh proteſtant or reformed congregation, within three months before taking the ſtate-oaths, and ſhall produce certificates thereof ſigned by the miniſter and two other witneſſes. Yet ſuch naturalized foreigner ſhall loſe his naturalization upon his being more than twelve months out of Great Britain or Ireland, or his majeſty's plantations in America. [22 *Geo. II, c.* 45.]

While Sir Benjamin Keene, the Britiſh miniſter, was treating with the

court of Madrid upon the commercial difference between the two nations, our London merchants who traded to Cadiz handed about a manuſcript paper, tending to prove, that the trade by the South-ſea company's annual ſhip directly to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies was not ſo beneficial to the Britiſh nation in general, as the former method of ſending goods directly to Cadiz, and thence with the regiſter-ſhips to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies.

That paper ſuppoſes the whole outfet, ſhip and all, of a ſhip of 600 tons, with her cargo, from Cadiz to La Vera Cruz, to amount to - - - Dollars. 346,903

And the net returns from La Vera Cruz, deducting commiſſion, indultos, &c. to be - - 717,134¼

Deduct the outfet - - 346,903

And there remains the profit - 370,231¼

Being near 107 per cent. But, if inſurances be deducted for thoſe who would not run the riſk of the ſea, and which in time of peace would not exceed 12 per cent, then the remaining profit would be 95 per cent. But the chief advantage in this affair is ſuppoſed to ariſe from having both the ſhip and the king's licence one's own. For, ſays this author, beſides the conſiderable freights which ſuch ſhips make, there are very great profits made by the privileged goods embarked thereon.

Next, we have the particular aſſortments of ſuch a cargo, with the ſeveral countries they are had from, viz.

Purchaſed chiefly at Cadiz, though not all Spaniſh merchandize, iron, wrought and unwrought, ſteel, wax, (which muſt be whitened at Cadiz) Genoa paper, Brabant linen, Dutch knives, wines, brandy, and ſundry ordinary ſtowage-goods, amounting in all to - - Dollars. 46,300

Britiſh manufactures, viz. long-ells of various colours, ſays, ſhalloons, hair and worſted camblets, bays, Spaniſh cloths, worſted ſtockings, hats, and hardware; in all - 115,500

From Flanders, 'ſtamins, coarſe ſays, buratos, lamparillas, Brabant linen bleached, and Tournay ditto unbleached 15,800

From France; Britannias broad and narrow, Rouen linen bleached, Dowlas, Morlaix linen, cambrics and lawns, amounting to - - - 49,350

From Germany; Sileſia and Hamburgh linens, lawns, and ſundry other ſorts of linen, thread, calimancoes, &c. 22,200

From Spain, viz. Genoa women's ſtockings, Spaniſh double taffety of various colours, and Spaniſh velvets 21,000

Total amount of the cargo in dollars - 270,150

In this aſſortment of goods for the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies the Britiſh manufactures make up one third of the whole, which muſt go by the way of Cadiz, in caſe the aſſiento of the South-ſea company be laid aſide; and by its being ſo laid aſide, the value of all Engliſh goods ſent from Cadiz to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, will be increaſed to at leaſt three millions of dollars (or above L675,000 ſterling) yearly: and ſuppoſing, in time of peace, nine millions value in goods to be annually ſent from Cadiz to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, excluſive of Britiſh manufactures, few of which (according to this author) were ſent that way whilſt the aſſiento was in exerciſe, and thereto be added the ſaid three millions in value of Britiſh manufactures, then the diſpatches yearly from Cadiz to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies will be twelve millions of dollars. Now, continues this author, allowing that the Britiſh merchants ſhould (as eaſily they may) be one third concerned in the ſaid trade, which, on a moderate computation, renders at leaſt 50 per cent profit, or two millions of dollars more gained to our nation; this he thinks (from his own premiſes, which however ſeem conſiderably exaggerated) will be found to exceed any advantage that has, or ever can, proceed from the aſſiento, by which it is notorious that the South-ſea company have loſt very conſiderably. He therefor concludes, that the commercial intereſt of Great Britain will be much benefited by the extinction of the aſſiento: and, with reſpect to our political intereſt, while the aſſiento ſubſiſts, it will prove a continual bone of contention between two nations, whoſe mutual intereſts are, more than any other two nations in Europe, to be cloſely united.

The government of Great Britain began now ſeriouſly to conſider the great importance of the country and ports of Nova-Scotia, which Captain Thomas Coram, in the year 1735, by a judicious memorial and petition to the privy-council, had repreſented to be in a moſt naked and unſettled condition, whereby the French had full leiſure to make the moſt ſhameful and barefaced encroachments on that province. It was now at length begun to be conſidered as the very key of North-America. Upon the concluſion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, therefor, they ſent out a large colony to a place having a fine harbour, where they ſettled and built a town, which they named Halifax, from the title of the noble lord who then preſided ſo worthily at the board of trade and plantations. The excellence of this province was now at length viewed in three different and advantageous lights, viz. 1ſt, for its happy ſituation, as capable of always annoying and intercepting our enemies, and as a barrier for New-England; 2dly, for the great fiſhery of its adjacent ſeas; and, 3dly, for its infinite quantities of timber for the uſe of the royal navy, beſides ſundry new productions which may probably be hereafter raiſed therein.

Upon an allegation in certain pamphlets, &c. touching a north-weſt

paſſage to the ſea of Japan, that the Hudſon's-bay company had not hitherto encouraged any attempts for finding ſuch a paſſage, and that a more extenſive and beneficial trade might be carried on to the countries about Hudſon's bay if the trade were laid quite open; the houſe of commons appointed a committee to inquire into thoſe allegations, while petitions from Briſtol, Liverpool, &c. were ſent up, for laying that trade open. Nevertheleſs, upon a full inquiry and examination of witneſſes who had lived at Hudſon's bay, their report gave very little reaſon to hope for any great increaſe of commerce there, the country being very inhoſpitable on the ſea-coaſts; yet it appeared that the inland countries to the ſouth and weſt of that bay abound with fine woods, wild-fowl, wild beaſts, river-fiſh, &c. and that corn and pulſe would grow thereon, were plantations made. That, however, conſidering the company's capital, &c. it did not appear, that they had not, in the main, done as well as could be expected for promoting the commerce there: that moreover it ſeemed very doubtful, whether, if the trade were laid quite open, it might not be gradually loſt from us to the French of Canada. Neither did the committee's report give any great hope of a ſafe paſſage likely to be diſcovered in any practicable latitude. One Mr. Robſon, indeed, who had been ſurveyor to the company, and who ſeemed now a diſguſted evidence againſt them, tells us, that the company's four ſmall factories contained only 130 ſervants, and two ſmall houſes with only eight men in each: that their annual exports were about L4000 in value; having, in time of peace, three ſhips each of 150 to 200 tons burden, with two or three ſmall ſloops ſtationed in the bay: that there are inconteſtable evidences of rich copper and lead mines, yet the company give no encouragement for working them, nor for their ſervants going into the inland countries: that the probability of a paſſage is farther ſtrengthened from the late diſcovery of bays, inlets, and broken lands, the weſtern ends of which are not yet diſcovered, there having been no rivers as yet obſerved on the north-weſt coaſt: that the true reaſon of the company not acting for the general benefit of the nation is, becauſe they have had no legal (i. e. parliamentary) right to their excluſive trade ſince the year 1698, at which time the act of parliament expired, which confirmed their charter for ſeven years. If therefor, ſays Mr. Robſon, at this period, the leaſt evidence had been ſuffered to tranſpire, that the climate is very habitable, the ſoil rich and fruitful, fit for corn and cattle, rich in mines, and the fiſheries capable of great improvement, and that the trade may even be extended by means of a naval paſſage, or at leaſt by a ſhort land paſſage, to the Weſtern ocean, had proper experiments been made thereof at that time; the legiſlature would have taken the right into their own hands, and would have ſettled the country, and laid the trade open for the benefit of Britain: the company therefor have contented themſelves with dividing among

only about 100 perſons a large profit upon a ſmall capital; and have not only endeavoured to keep the true ſtate of the trade and country an impenetrable ſecret, but have alſo induſtriouſly propagated the worſt impreſſions of them. He therefor propoſed, that for preventing thoſe vaſt territories from falling into the hands of the French of Canada, the legiſlature ſhould purchaſe the company's right to ſuch lands as they have a legal title to, and lay the trade open, ſettle the rivers and adjoining coaſt with European proteſtants, and civilize the natives.

We have handled this ſubject ſo often and ſo fully, as to have quite exhauſted it; and we ſhall therefor leave it to the judgment of the public, after obſerving, that the company's opponents have, at different times, advanced ſundry things in favour of the probability of a paſſage, and alſo in behalf of the goodneſs of the lands and climate, which ſeem too much exaggerated; and in this uncertain ſtate the ſubject may poſſibly remain to the end of time.

An act of parliament, for reducing the ſeveral annuities then bearing 4 per cent to the ſeveral rates of intereſt therein mentioned, laid the foundation of an addition to the ſinking fund, which in a ſhort time amounted to near L600,000 a-year, ſaved from the intereſt of the following capitals, viz.

The principal ſum payable at the exchequer, of	L 312,000	0	0
Capital bank ſtock, - - -	8,486,800	0	0
Certain annuities transferable at the bank, -	18,402,472	0	10
Capital ſtock of the Eaſt-India company,	3,200,000	0	0
Capital South-ſea ſtock, and old and new South-ſea annuity ſtock, - - -	27,302,203	5	6½
Total, -	L57,703,475	6	4½

And it being the united opinion of the king and parliament, that nothing can ſo effectually contribute to make trade flouriſh, as leſſening the public debts and incumbrances, conſiſtent with juſtice and public faith; it was therefor enacted, that all the proprietors of the public debts incurred before michaelmas 1749, who ſhould, on or before the 28th of February 1749-50, conſent to accept an intereſt of 3 per cent per annum, to commence from the 25th of December 1757, ſhould, in lieu of their preſent intereſt, receive 4 per cent per annum, until the 25th of December 1750, and from thence L3: 10 per cent until the 25th of December 1757; and no part of the ſame (except what is due to the Eaſt-India company) ſhould be liable to be redeemed until the ſaid 25th of December 1757.

This is what was called the firſt ſubſcription, becauſe (as we ſhall ſee) all the proprietors of the above debts did not come into this propoſed ſubſcription within the time limited by this act, although the major part of them did.

And though the ſecond ſubſcription to that reduction was not enacted till the ſpring of the year 1750, yet, for connection's ſake, we ſhall here give the ſubſtance of an act of this ſame ſeſſion, for giving further time to ſuch of the proprietors of the annuities to ſubſcribe the ſame upon the terms therein mentioned, and for redeeming (i. e. paying off the principal ſums of) ſuch of the ſaid annuities as ſhall not be ſo ſubſcribed: and for empowering the Eaſt-India company to raiſe certain ſums by transferable annuities.

It recites, that great part of thoſe annuities had been ſubſcribed on the terms of the former ſtatute: it was therefor hereby enacted, that the ſtock of ſuch proprietors as have not ſo ſubſcribed, and who ſhould, on or before the 30th of May 1750, accept an intereſt of 3 per cent, to commence from the 25th of December 1755, ſhould not be redeemable till the 25th of December 1755; and ſuch as ſhould not ſubſcribe on or before that day, ſhould be paid off. Thus the ſecond ſubſcribers had a reduction of their intereſt from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent, two years ſooner than thoſe of the firſt ſubſcription; and ſuch as determined not to ſubſcribe at all, who however were not very many, were paid off their principal ſums out of the ſinking fund. Laſtly, the Eaſt-India company were empowered, by conſent of the commiſſioners of the treaſury (if they ſubſcribed their £3,200,000 ſtock, and their one million annuities, by the 30th of May 1750) to borrow any ſums, not exceeding £4,200,000, by ſale of annuities, viz. £3,200,000 after the ſeveral rates of intereſt in the terms of this ſecond ſubſcription, and one million more at the rate of 3 per cent per annum; with which the Eaſt-India company accordingly complied.

For promoting the ſilk manufacture of Great Britain, the duties on raw ſilk, imported from China by the Eaſt-India company, were now reduced by act of parliament to the ſame duty payable on raw ſilk from Italy.

Parliament now enacted, that, as it would greatly tend to the increaſe and improvement of the ſilk manufactures of this kingdom to encourage the growth of raw ſilk in his majeſty's dominions in America, properly certified to be really raw ſilk of the ſaid growth and culture, the ſame might be imported duty free into the port of London, in ſhips navigated and manned as by the navagation acts. And as its culture has ſince viſibly, though very gradually, increaſed there, and more particularly in Carolina and Georgia, it ſeems now probable, that in a reaſonable ſpace of time thoſe two provinces may hereafter have the new honour of being denominated ſilk colonies, if they will ſteadily proceed in the culture of that profitable article.

From Koningſberg, the capital of the kingdom of Pruſſia, by the common news of the 4th of January 1749-50, we learned that the commerce of that port had been more conſiderable during the year 1749

than in any of the preceding ones, viz. that 671 ſhips had arrived there from the North, England, and Holland, with all kinds of merchandize, and a great quantity of wines, brandies, &c. from France, Spain, the Rhine, and the Moſelle: on the other hand, 682 ſhips had, within the ſame year, ſailed from thence, laden with corn, hemp, hides, boards, maſts, &c.

The eminent author of a pamphlet, entitled, Farther conſiderations upon a reduction of the land-tax, [*p.* 34] gives a remarkable account of the increaſe of the tonnage of the Britiſh navy, in three different periods, viz.

In the year 1715 it was	- -	167,596 tons.
In the year 1727 it was	- -	170,862
And in 1749 it was increaſed to	-	228,215

An act of parliament (of this ſame year) for enlarging and maintaining the harbour of Ramſgate, &c. gave great hopes that our mercantile ſhipping would find a much ſafer retreat, in caſe of ſtorms, &c. than any they have hitherto enjoyed on the coaſts of Kent and Suſſex. Its preamble ſets forth, 'that frequent loſſes of the lives and properties of 'his majeſty's ſubjects happen in the Downs for want of a harbour be-'tween the north and ſouth Forelands; the greateſt part of the ſhips 'employed in the trade of this nation being under a neceſſity, at going 'out upon, as well as in returning from, their voyages, to paſs through 'the Downs, and frequently by contrary winds being detained there a 'long time, during which they (eſpecially the outward-bound ſhips) are 'expoſed to violent ſtorms, and dangerous gales of wind, without hav-'ing any ſufficient harbour to lie in or retreat into, or from whence 'they can receive any aſſiſtance: and as a harbour may be made at 'Ramſgate, convenient for the reception of ſhips of 300 tons burden, 'and from whence larger ſhips in diſtreſs in the Downs may be ſup-'plied with pilots, anchors, cables, and other aſſiſtance and neceſſaries; 'and by the ſmaller ſhips taking ſhelter in this harbour, the larger ſhips 'may take the anchorage which at preſent is occupied by the ſmaller, 'and by that means their anchors will be fixed in more holding ground, 'and the ſhips not be ſo expoſed to the Ocean.' A great number, therefor, of honourable and eminent perſons are hereby appointed truſtees for improving the harbour of Ramſgate, and a duty of ſixpence per ton on all mercantile ſhipping was hereby laid for this end; and two very fine piers have been run out a good way into the ſea, at the prodigious expenſe of near L.50,000 ſterling, which, however, in the opinion of many, ſuppoſed to be competent judges, has not hitherto anſwered expectation; yet as the vaſt ſcheme of this new harbour is not yet completed, it ſeems but reaſonable for us to ſuſpend, till then, our abſolute determination hereof.

Dr. Buſching, in his New geography of Ruſſia, gives us the amount

of the value of the exports of Peterſburgh to all the world in the year 1749, being 3,184,322 rubles; and of the imports 2,942,242; whereby Ruſſia, or rather Peterſburgh, had a balance in its favour of 242,080 only: but with reſpect to Great Britain alone, it ſtood thus, viz.

Exports thither from Peterſburgh,	-	2,245,573 rubles.
Imports from Great Britain,	-	1,012,209
Balance againſt Great Britain, and in favour of Ruſſia, was	- -	1,233,264

Or, at 4/2 ſterling per ruble, L256,950 : 16 : 8 ſterling.

Hereby, if that author was rightly informed, it appears, that Ruſſia's commerce with Britain was not only more gainful to the former than all the reſt of Europe, but that Ruſſia was this year a loſer by all the reſt of Europe, of no leſs than 991,284 rubles, being the difference between what they gained from Britain alone and the 242,080 gained from all Europe, Britain included. We hereby learn, how much it is Ruſſia's intereſt to cultivate the friendſhip of Great Britain; and we may add, how much it is the intereſt of the later to leſſen the balance as ſoon as poſſible, as well as that with the other northern countries; of which we wiſh we had an equally diſtinct and adequate account.

1750.—At the opening of the ſeſſion of the Britiſh parliament at the cloſe of the year 1749, the king in his ſpeech having recommended to their conſideration the improvement of the fiſhery, the houſe of commons thereupon appointed a committee to inquire into the ſtate, and to conſider of means for improving the fiſhery of herring, cod, &c. And a meeting being held in the city, of many eminent gentlemen and merchants, in the beginning of the year 1750 (new ſtile), it was propoſed to form a joint ſtock of L500,000, provided the legiſlature would grant an encouragement of 4 per cent per annum on that capital, when employed in the following manner, viz.

I) Upon the payment of L300,000 thereof into the bank of England, the intereſt thereon ſhould commence, but ſhould not be payable until L100,000 thereof ſhould be actually employed in the fiſhery.

II) Upon the payment of the remaining L200,000 into the bank, the intereſt thereon ſhould commence in like manner, but ſhould not be payable until another L100,000 ſhould be farther employed in the fiſhery. On this occaſion, ſundry pamphlets and newſpapers attempted to demonſtrate the practicability of Great Britain gaining from the Dutch the bulk of the white-herring fiſhery. Hereupon an act of parliament paſſed in the ſame ſeſſion for the encouragement of the white herring fiſhery; the preamble whereof ſets forth, that the carrying on and improvement thereof are of great importance to theſe kingdoms, tending to great advantage to our trade and navigation, and for employing, and providing for, great numbers of induſtrious poor; provided the ſame

be carried on with a ſufficient ſtock, under proper regulations; and reaſonable encouragement be given to ſuch perſons as are willing to carry on the ſaid fiſheries. For the encouragement therefor of ſuch perſons, and for the better regulation of the trade, and for preventing frauds and impoſitions in the management thereof, it was enacted, that the king by letters patent, may incorporate a number of gentlemen, herein named, and all others who ſhall be entitled to any ſhare in the capital ſum of L500,000, to be one body politic and corporate, by the name of the Society of the free Britiſh fiſhery, for the term of 21 years; during which time they are every three years to elect a governor, preſident, vice-preſident, council, and other officers, who may make bye laws for the management of the trade; may direct what ſeals or marks ſhall be put on the barrels or caſks of their fiſh, for the counterfeiting whereof a penalty of L500 ſhall be incurred for each offence. This corporation may make calls on their members; the firſt and ſecond payments to be each 10 per cent of their ſubſcriptions, and the ſubſequent payments to be by the direction of a general court of the ſociety. In failure of anſwering ſuch calls, the ſociety may diſpoſe, after thirty days previous notice in the London gazette, of ſo much of the ſtock of ſuch defaulter as ſhall produce the ſum ſo called in. Three per cent per annum, upon every L100 actually employed in the ſaid fiſhery, ſhall be paid to the proprietors of the ſaid ſtock for fourteen years to come, by the receiver-general of the cuſtoms, half yearly. The ſociety ſhall employ L100,000 at leaſt, within eighteen months after the date of ſuch ſubſcription; and accounts of the monies which ſhall be ſo employed ſhall be annually laid before the parliament. And if loſs ſhall ariſe by any year's adventure, and there ſhould be gain by ſucceeding years, the gain ſhall be employed to make good the veſſels and fiſhing ſtock to the full value of the ſaid original ſum of L100,000 before any dividend ſhall be made. A bounty of thirty ſhillings per ton ſhall be annually paid out of the cuſtoms, for fourteen years to come, to the owners of all decked veſſels from twenty to eighty tons burden, which ſhall be built after the commencement of this act, for the uſe of, and fitted out and employed in, the ſaid fiſheries, whether by this ſociety, or any other perſons; ſuch veſſel to be a decked buſs or veſſel, built in Great Britain, and to proceed thereon from ſome port of Great Britain, manned and navigated as the law directs; and with a ſufficient quantity of fiſhing nets and ſtores. Certificates to be produced before the collector and comptroller of the reſpective Britiſh ports, that it is their firm purpoſe to proceed therein, either to Braſſa ſound in Shetland, and be at the rendezvous of the fiſhery there on or before the 11th of June, and that they will not ſhoot or wet their nets before the 13th * of the ſame month, and ſhall continue fiſhing among the ſholes of herring, as they move ſouthward,

* By the alteration of the ſtile, the 24th is now the day for beginning to ſhoot their nets. *M.*

to the 1ſt of October; or they ſhall proceed to Campbeltown in Argyleſhire, and be at the rendezvous of the fiſheries there on or before the 1ſt of September, and continue fiſhing to the 31ſt of December, unleſs they ſhall ſooner have completed their loading of fiſh; they ſhall keep a journal of their proceedings; of the quantity of fiſh they diſpatch away to foreign markets in their tenders before they come into port, and of the particular quantity they ſhall bring into port with them, each veſſel to carry out twelve Wincheſter buſhels of ſalt for every laſt of fiſh ſhe is capable of holding, to be barrelled up in new barrels; ſhall have two fleets of tanned nets for every veſſel of 70 tons. Every veſſel of 20 tons ſhall have ſix men, and for veſſels of greater burden, one man more for every five tons. This act ſhall not exclude any of the king's ſubjects, though not of this ſociety, from fiſhing for white herrings, cod, &c. in the ſame manner they might have done before this act. Any number of perſons who ſhall ſubſcribe L10,000 or more into the ſociety, and ſhall carry on the fiſhery under their own management, and on their own account of profit and loſs, conformably to the directions of this act (except their being obliged to uſe the marks of the ſociety) and from the port named by them, if they ſubſcribe under the name of the fiſhing chamber of ſuch city, town, or port reſpectively, and ſhall ſend their account of monies expended in the ſaid fiſheries, atteſted by three of the committee appointed for managing the matters of the ſaid chamber, and be alſo ſigned by their accountant, making oath of its being a true account, which account ſhall be tranſmitted to the ſociety in London, whoſe accountant ſhall enter the ſame as a ſum expended in the ſaid fiſheries by the ſociety, in the account which he ſhall deliver in to the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms, as aforeſaid, the ſaid chamber ſhall receive 3 per cent, as the ſociety do for other monies employed by them, after deducting the neceſſary charges ariſing from the receipt of the ſame. Such chambers as ſhall fiſh on their own account ſhall not have any profit or loſs ariſing from the trade of the ſociety.

Purſuant to this ſtatute, his majeſty's charter of incorporation was granted, being dated on the 11th of October 1750. And,

Though the ſucceſs of this moſt public-ſpirited undertaking has not hitherto fully anſwered the expectation of the worthy promoters of it, in favour of whoſe generous zeal too much can hardly be ſaid, yet it is to be hoped, and greatly to be wiſhed, that by further trials they may at length ſucceed. It is indeed extremely difficult to beat another nation out of a trade they have ſo long proſpered in, even with the above great encouragement from the public, and more eſpecially ſo frugal a people as the Dutch, who can content themſelves with ſmaller gains than other nations, and carry on the fiſhery every one on his own private bottom. *

* It has with great truth been remarked by a very judicious gentleman, that all the companies who have ſet on foot fiſheries on a great ſcale, and propoſed to carry all before them by the weight of their capital, have miſcarried. They reckoned the neceſſary apparatus dear by a ſudden demand be-

We ſhall therefor ſuſpend any farther remarks, and only join in the univerſal wiſh of all true Britons for its ſucceſs. By a ſtatute of the 30th of the ſame king (1757) inſtead of thirty ſhillings per ton, the bounty is increaſed to fifty ſhillings per ton on all the ſhips built and employed by this fiſhery company, with certain regulations relating to their nets, &c.

The many difficulties ſtarted by the court of Spain againſt carrying on the South-ſea company's aſſiento trade, the oppreſſions of the Spaniſh officers and governors in the Weſt-Indies, the frauds too obviouſly committed on the other hand by that company's agents in thoſe parts, in ſpite of all their regulations and reſtrictions, and the complaints of the Britiſh merchants trading to Cadiz, ſeemed now all to concur, at both courts, for putting a final period to a trade which, without any ſubſtantial benefit to Great Britain, had given inſuperable umbrage to the court of Madrid, ſo that both courts were the more eaſily brought into the treaty of Madrid, concluded on the 5th of October (N. S.) 1750, viz. the ambaſſadors of both kings, at the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, having then agreed to regulate, at a proper time and place, the equivalent which Spain ſhould give in conſideration of the non-enjoyment of the remaining years of the aſſiento of negroes, and of the annual ſhip granted to Great Britain, their Britannic and Catholic majeſties have now agreed on the following articles, viz.

I) His Britannic majeſty yields to his Catholic majeſty his right to the enjoyment of the aſſiento of negroes, and of the annual ſhip, during the four years ſtipulated by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

II) His Britannic majeſty, in conſideration of a compenſation of L100,000 ſterling, which his Catholic majeſty promiſes to pay, either at Madrid or London, to the company, within three months at lateſt, yields to his Catholic majeſty all that may be due to that company for balance of accounts, or ariſing in any manner whatſoever from the aſſiento: ſo that the ſaid compenſation ſhall be eſteemed as a full and entire ſatisfaction on the part of his Catholic majeſty, and ſhall extinguiſh, from this preſent time, for the future and forever, all right, pretenſion, or demand, which might be formed in conſequence of the aſſiento, or annual ſhip, directly or indirectly, on the part of his Britannic majeſty, or on that of the company.

yond the quantity in the market: they immediately employed more people than could poſſibly be found duely qualified: and they caught more fiſh than they could find ſale for, either in the country, or abroad in competition with the better-cured herrings, and eſtabliſhed markets, of the Dutch. He obſerves, that all the fiſheries, that have ever proſpered, have gradually ariſen from ſmall beginnings, the number of people bred to them, and the increaſe of the markets, keeping pace with the gradual augmentation of the fiſheries. When to the above drawbacks upon the proſperity of a fiſhery upon a great ſcale, we add the waſte and want of economy in the tranſactions of great ſocieties, and add to all theſe the innumerable hardſhips of the ſalt laws, we need not wonder, that all the patriotic efforts of great ſocieties have been hurtful to themſelves, and barren of benefit to the country. *M.*

III) The Catholic king yields to his Britannic majeſty all his pretenſions or demands in conſequence of the ſaid aſſiento and annual ſhip, as well with regard to the articles already liquidated as to thoſe which may be either eaſy or difficult to liquidate; ſo that no mention can ever be made of them hereafter on either ſide.

IV) His Catholic majeſty conſents, that the Britiſh ſubjects ſhall not be bound to pay higher or other duties, or upon other evaluations for goods which they ſhall carry into, or out of, the different ports of his Catholic majeſty, than thoſe paid on the ſame goods in the time of King Charles II of Spain, ſettled by the cedulas and ordinances of that king or his predeceſſors. And though the favour or allowance called pie del fardo be not founded upon any royal ordinance, nevertheleſs, his Catholic majeſty declares, that it ſhall be obſerved now, and for the future, as an inviolable law: and all the above-mentioned duties ſhall be exacted and levied, now and for the future, with the ſame advantages and favours to the ſaid ſubjects.

V) His Catholic majeſty allows the ſubjects of Britain to take and gather ſalt in the iſland of Tortudos (in the Weſt-Indies) without any hinderance whatſoever; as they did in the time of King Charles II.

VI) He alſo conſents that they ſhall not pay anywhere higher or other duties than thoſe which his own ſubjects pay in the ſame place.

VII) His Catholic majeſty grants, that they ſhall enjoy all the rights, privileges, franchiſes, exemptions, and immunities whatſoever, which they enjoyed before the laſt war, by virtue of cedulas or royal ordinances, and by the articles of the treaty of peace and commerce made at Madrid in the year 1667; and they ſhall be treated in Spain in the ſame manner as the moſt favoured nation; and conſequently no nation ſhall pay leſs duties upon wool and other merchandizes which they ſhall bring into, or carry out of, Spain, by land *, than the ſaid ſubjects ſhall pay upon the ſame merchandizes, which they ſhall bring in, or carry out, by ſea. And all the rights, privileges, franchiſes, exemptions, and immunities, which ſhall be granted or permitted to any nation whatever, ſhall alſo be granted and permitted to the ſaid ſubjects: and his Britannic majeſty conſents that the ſame be granted and permitted to the ſubjects of Spain in his Britannic majeſty's kingdoms.

VIII) His Catholic majeſty promiſes to uſe all poſſible endeavours, on his part, to aboliſh all innovations for the future, which may have been introduced into commerce. And his Britannic majeſty likewiſe promiſes to uſe all poſſible endeavours to aboliſh all innovations, and to forbear them for the future.

IX) Their Britannic and Catholic majeſties confirm, by the preſent treaty, the laſt treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and all the other treaties therein confirmed, in all their articles and clauſes; excepting thoſe which have been derogated from by the preſent treaty: as likewiſe the treaty

* This clauſe more eſpecially reſpects the French nation. *A.*

of commerce concluded at Utrecht in the year 1713; thoſe articles excepted which are contrary to the preſent treaty, which ſhall be aboliſhed and of no force; and, namely, the three articles of the ſaid treaty, commonly called explanatory.

X) All the reciprocal differences, rights, demands, and pretenſions, which may have ſubſiſted between the two crowns of Great Britain and Spain, in which no other nation whatever has any part, intereſt, or right of intervention, being thus accommodated and extinguiſhed by this particular treaty; the two moſt ſerene kings engage themſelves mutually to the punctual execution of this treaty of reciprocal compenſation.

This is truely a moſt definitive treaty, in the ſtricteſt ſenſe, as it relates purely to differences between Great Britain and Spain, without any relation to, or connection with, any other nation: and accordingly it has hitherto, till very lately, been well obſerved on both ſides; and hereby a period was abſolutely put to all foreign commerce whatever of the South-ſea company.

This year an act of parliament was paſſed to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron from his majeſty's colonies in America, and to prevent the erection of any mill, or other engine, for ſlitting or rolling iron, or any plating forge to work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making ſteel, in any of the ſaid colonies. The title of this ſtatute ſufficiently ſhews how jealouſly our legiſlature prevented our greatly-increaſing northern colonies from going far into manufactures interfering with thoſe of their mother-country. Nevertheleſs, as our continental colonies are increaſing faſt in people, ſurely ſome latitude muſt, and will hereafter, be allowed in that reſpect, as the proportionable increaſe of our people there will undoubtedly occaſion a like or greater increaſe of our general commerce thither.

By a ſtatute of the 30th of King George II, this act of the 23d of this king, for importing bar iron from America into the port of London, was extended to all the ports of Great Britain; and ſome clauſes in the firſt act, of leſs importance, were repealed.

This year an act of parliament paſſed for extending and improving the trade to Africa. Its preamble juſtly remarks, that the trade to and from Africa being very advantageous to Great Britain, and neceſſary for ſupplying the plantations and colonies with a ſufficient number of negroes at reaſonable rates, ought, for that reaſon, to be free and open to all his majeſty's ſubjects; it was therefor enacted that it ſhall be lawful for all the king's ſubjects to trade to and from any place in Africa, between the port of Sallee in South-Barbary, and the Cape of Good Hope, without any reſtraint whatſoever, except as herein after expreſſed, viz.

I) All his majeſty's ſubjects, who ſhall trade to and from Africa, be-

tween Cape Blanco and the Cape of Good Hope, ſhall forever hereafter be deemed a body corporate and politic, by the name of the Company of merchants trading to Africa, with perpetual ſucceſſion and a common ſeal, and may ſue and be ſued, &c. as other corporations.

II) All the Britiſh forts, ſettlements, and factories, on the coaſt of Africa, from Cape Blanco to the Cape of Good Hope, and all coaſts, iſlands, rivers, regions, &c. within the ſaid limits, which are now claimed, or poſſeſſed, by the royal African company of England, or which may hereafter be in the poſſeſſion of the company hereby eſtabliſhed, ſhall, from the paſſing of an act for diveſting the African company of their charter, forts, and all their other property on the coaſt of Africa, be abſolutely veſted in the new company eſtabliſhed by this act, and their ſucceſſors, to the intent that the ſaid forts, &c. ſhall be employed only for the protection, encouragement, and defence, of the trade.

III) Yet this new company ſhall not trade to or from Africa, in their corporate capacity, neither ſhall they have any joint, or transferable ſtock, nor ſhall they borrow money on their common ſeal.

IV) The direction of the affairs of this new company ſhall be by a committee of nine perſons, to be choſen annually; to meet as often as ſhall be neceſſary, in ſome place within the city of London, the majority of whom being aſſembled, ſhall have full power to make orders for governing and improving the forts, factories, &c.: ſo as no orders nor regulations of theirs ſhall lay any reſtraint whatſoever on the trade or traders, contrary to the intent of this act.

V) Such as intend to trade to Africa, and who ſhall, on or before the 30th of June 1750, pay 40*ſ* each to the chamberlain of London for their freedom of this company, are empowered to meet at Gildhall, and chooſe three perſons; and they who ſhall pay 40*ſ* into the hands of the clerk of the merchants hall of Briſtol, to chooſe three perſons; and the like at Liverpool, for chooſing three perſons: and the nine perſons ſo choſen ſhall be the firſt annual committee.

VI) In all future elections the committee ſhall be nominated on the 3d of July yearly, in manner following, viz. three ſhall be nominated by the freemen of the company admitted in London, and three at Briſtol, and three at Liverpool. And the freemen of this company, in each of the ſaid three places, may chooſe other committee-men in the place of ſuch as ſhall die or be removed, or who ſhall refuſe to act. And if they, or any of the three places, neglect to chooſe ſuch, then the remainder, though leſs in number than nine, may act as the committee, till next year's election. In caſe of an equality of voices at any election, the lord-mayor of London, and the mayors of Briſtol and Liverpool, reſpectively, ſhall determine which of ſuch perſons ſhall be the committee-men. From and after the 30th of June 1750 any other of his majeſty's ſubjects, who ſhall trade to or from Africa, ſhall be admitted

freemen of the ſaid company, at London, Briſtol, or Liverpool, upon payment of 40ſ, as aforeſaid, but ſhall not vote at the election of committee-men until one year after their admiſſion. The ſaid freedom money of 40ſ ſhall be accounted for to the annual committee. No perſon ſhall be a committee-man above three years ſucceſſively. The committee may inveſt the money in their hands, in the purchaſe of goods and ſtores for Africa, there to be applied for the ſole uſe, preſervation, &c. of their forts and ſettlements, and for the wages, ſalaries, &c. of their officers, &c. employed there; but the committee ſhall not export from Africa any negroes, or other goods, in return; nor ſhall in any other manner carry on a trade to or from Africa; and an account of the committee's receipts and payments ſhall be kept, and lie open at their office in London, to be peruſed gratis by any member of the company. The commiſſioners for trade and plantations may remove any of the committee-men, or the officers and ſervants of this company, upon miſbehaviour. And the committee ſhall render an account of their tranſactions to the board of trade and plantations annually, or oftener, if required. The committee, out of the monies they ſhall receive, may deduct, annually, L800 for defraying, in the firſt place, the ſalaries of their clerks, &c. at the ſaid three places, and all other charges of management; and the reſidue of that ſum ſhall be divided among themſelves, as a compenſation for their trouble. The committee's accounts ſhall be annually examined, upon oath, by the curſitor-baron of the exchequer, and they ſhall lay a copy of ſuch accounts, &c. before the parliament in every ſeſſion, as alſo before the general meetings of their own members, held in London, Briſtol, and Liverpool.

VII) The forts, warehouſes, &c. of this company, ſhall, at all times, be free to all his majeſty's ſubjects, to be uſed as warehouſes for depoſiting gunpowder, gold, elephants' teeth, wax, gums, and drugs, and no other goods; and ſhall alſo be free and open, in caſe of neceſſity or danger, to all his majeſty's ſubjects, for the ſafety of their perſons and effects. Three maſters of the court of chancery, whereof the accountant-general of that court to be one, ſhall be commiſſioners for examining and allowing the claims of the creditors of the royal African company, after which that company ſhall be diveſted of their charter, and be diſſolved.

Thus this very conſiderable branch of the Britiſh commerce again aſſumed a new appearance, after having paſſed, as we have ſhewn, through ſeveral different conſtitutions, and various conditions. What has by this act been eſtabliſhed, remains ſtill in being, and with general approbation, though there are not wanting ſome who ſtill think that ſo important a trade ought to be under a ſtricter government, and even in a joint-ſtock corporation, as in former times; of which opinion, time,

and the experience of the traders to that extended coaſt, will determine the validity *.

1751.—In the year 1751 Dr. William Douglas, of Boſton in New-England, publiſhed there his Summary, hiſtorical and political, of the firſt planting of the Britiſh continent colonies of America; in which he gives a very juſt and conciſe view of the entire country, uſually known by the general name of New-England, as at preſent divided into four ſeparate governments, viz. the firſt and principal one, known by the name of the province of the Maſſachuſets-bay, of which Boſton is the capital city, contains 200,000 white inhabitants: the government of which province is in the crown, but the property is in the repreſentatives of the people. The ſecond province is Connecticut, containing 100,000 white people. Thirdly, Rhode-iſland, containing 30,000 white people; in both which later provinces the government and property are in the repreſentatives of the people. Fourthly, New-Hampſhire, in which both government and property are in the crown, contains 24,000 white inhabitants. The total white people in all New-England then was 354,000. Dr. Douglas had lived many years in that country, and is allowed, by all we have converſed with from thence, to have given a true account of the number of people of New-England at that period.

We have, in its place, ſhewn, that the Danes had antiently a colony in the country, by them properly called Groneland, i. e. Greenland, and by others, Old Greenland, lying north-weſt of Norway, being a largely extended country, ſituated north of Davis's ſtraits, in a very inhoſpitable climate, and, for aught we yet know, may be properly a part of North-America. That inhoſpitable country, however, we find, by an edict of Frederic V king of Denmark, dated at Copenhagen the 26th March 1751, is again replanted by Denmark. The edict expreſsly prohibiting all perſons, as well natives as foreigners, from reſorting to the colonies eſtabliſhed by us, (ſays that king) in our country of Greenland, which we have granted to a general and privileged company excluſively, we being hereditary lord of that country, upon pain of ſeizure and confiſcation, againſt all ſuch as ſhall trade thither in prejudice of the ſaid company's right. The limits ſhall extend 15 miles on both ſides of each colony, including therein all the places lying between the Weſtern iſles, and the bay called in the maps Blackbirds-bay. This ſettlement is chiefly intended for the whale and ſeal fiſhery, and for peltry. Of its progreſs we may poſſibly learn more hereafter.

The South-ſea company having propoſed to the government to accept an intereſt of 4 per cent on their capital ſtock of L3,662,784: 8: 6 till chriſtmas 1757, and then to ſtand reduced to L3 per cent per annum,

* The total value of the imports of England in the year 1750, was L7,772,-39, and of the exports (not including gold and bullion) L12,699,081. [*Whitworth's State.*] *M.*

provided, that the manner of the receipt from the exchequer, and the charges of management upon the preſent old and new South-ſea annuities, and on their ſaid capital ſtock, be continued as they now are: an act of parliament, in conſequence thereof, paſſed in the 24th year of King George II, for reducing the ſame accordingly upon thoſe terms, and for preventing frauds committed by the officers and ſervants of the ſaid company, viz.

I) After chriſtmas 1757 their capital ſtock ſhall be reduced to 3 per cent, until redemption thereof, in full diſcharge of all demands of the company on the king of Spain, on account of the aſſiento, or annual ſhip, or on any account whatſoever, over and above the ſum of L100,000, paid purſuant to treaty.

II) The company ſhall continue to receive from the exchequer, out of the funds appropriated for that purpoſe, what monies ſhall, from time to time, become due for the intereſt thereof and charges of management, upon ſuch part of the old and new South-ſea annuities as are not redeemed, and on their capital ſtock; and all the rights and exemptions, with regard to the redemption of their capitals, ſhall be confirmed in the ſame manner as they now ſtand.

III) If any officer or ſervant of the company, entruſted with any note, bill, dividend warrant, bond, deed, or ſecurity, money, or other effects, belonging to the company, or to other perſons, depoſited with the company, or with him, as an officer or ſervant of the company, ſhall ſecrete, embezzle, or run away with the ſame, and be convicted thereof in due form of law, he ſhall be deemed guilty of felony, and ſuffer death as a felon, without benefit of clergy.

Thus, for the prevention of future diſputes between Great Britain and Spain, this company was debarred from all future claims on the court of Spain (though certainly very conſiderable and equitable ones), purſuant to the treaty of Madrid, whereby our king agreed to accept of L100,000 for the company, in full compenſation for all their conſiderable loſſes. So that between their very great loſſes ſuſtained by their ill-fated aſſiento contract, and by the moſt national undertaking of their whale fiſhery, that company may truely and impartially be ſaid to merit not only the compaſſion, but even the particular regard, of the public.

By a ſtatute of the 24th year of King George II, for enabling his majeſty to raiſe the ſeveral ſums of money therein mentioned, by exchequer bills, &c. the treaſury was empowered to iſſue L2,276,893 : 11 : 7, being the total principal ſum remaining payable upon the unſubſcribed old and new South-ſea annuities, after deducting L48,129 : 17 : 4, by this act directed to be ſubſcribed into the ſaid annuities, towards redeeming them. Any part of which ſum might be replaced by ſuch as were truſtees for certain purpoſes, as far as ſuch monies would go at the

current market price, either in the ſaid annuities, or in other purchaſes, public or private. And whereas ſeveral perſons, not being timely apprized of the notice given for ſubſcribing in their ſeveral annuities, being in the king's colonies in America, and other foreign parts, &c. the ſums which, on the 28th of February 1749, ſhould be intitled to the benefit of thoſe ſubſcriptions, amounting to L12,210 : 2 : 1 in new South-ſea annuities, and L13,443 : 14 : 3 in old South-ſea annuities, they ſhall be intitled to the vote of the houſe of commons of 21ſt March 1749, as amply as if they had ſeverally accepted the ſaid terms on or before the 30th of May 1750.

On Wedneſday, the 22d of May 1751, the ever-famous act of the Britiſh legiſlature, of the 24th year of King George II, received the royal aſſent, for regulating the commencement of the year, and for correcting the calendar now in uſe, i. e. for aboliſhing the old ſtile, and for eſtabliſhing the new ſtile, already in uſe in moſt parts of Chriſtendom.

Its preamble ſets forth, that the legal ſupputation of the year in England, which begins on the 25th of March, hath been attended with divers inconveniencies *, as it differs from other nations, and from the legal method of computation in Scotland, and the common uſage throughout the whole kingdom; and that thereby frequent miſtakes in the dates of deeds and other writings are occaſioned, and diſputes ariſe therefrom. And that the Julian calendar, now in uſe throughout the Britiſh dominions, hath been diſcovered to be erroneous, by means whereof the vernal equinox, which at the time of the council of Nice in the year 325, happened on or about the 21ſt of March, now happens on the 9th or 10th of the ſame month: and as the error is ſtill increaſing, and, if not remedied, will in time occaſion the ſeveral equinoxes and ſolſtices to fall at very different times in the civil year from what they formerly did, which may tend to miſlead perſons ignorant of ſuch alteration; and as a method of correcting the calendar, ſo as that the equinoxes and ſolſtices may for the future fall on the ſame nominal days on which they happened at the time of the ſaid general council, hath been received and eſtabliſhed, and is now generally practiſed by almoſt all other nations of Europe †; and as it will be of general con-

* It is ſtrange that this was not rectified long ago. *A.*

† The mean tropical ſolar year, or that mean ſpace of time wherein the ſun or earth, departing from any point of the ecliptic, returns to the ſame point again, conſiſts, according to the learned Dr. Halley's tables, of 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 55 ſeconds; which being leſs by 11 minutes and 5 ſeconds than the mean Julian year or old ſtile, conſiſting of 365 days and 6 hours, made an error in our old ſtile, hitherto followed by Great Britain, of 11 minutes and 5 ſeconds in each Julian year, being 44 minutes and 20 ſeconds in every 4 years, and 3 days 1 hour 53 minutes and 20 ſeconds in every 400 Julian years, or years of our old ſtile; and made 11 days difference between us and the greateſt part of Europe, eſpecially all of the Roman catholic perſuaſion, and moſt of the proteſtant ſtates alſo. The Julian year or old ſtile continued to be uſed all over Europe, until Pope Gregory XIII, by the help of the beſt aſtronomers, in the year 1582, diſcovered the inconveniencies of the Julian computation, whereby it appeared, that in 129 years and 337½ days, it

venience to merchants and other perſons correſponding with other nations and countries, and will tend to prevent miſtakes and diſputes concerning the dates of letters and accounts, if the like correction be received and eſtabliſhed in his majeſty's dominions; it was therefor enacted, that throughout all his majeſty's dominions the old ſupputation ſhould not be uſed after the laſt day of December 1751, and that the firſt of January following ſhould be accounted the firſt day of the year 1752, and ſo on in every year after: and after the ſaid firſt of January 1752 the days of the months ſhould go on and be reckoned in the ſame order, and the feaſt of eaſter, and other moveable feaſts depending thereon, ſhould be aſcertained according to the ſame method they now are till the 2d of September 1752 inclufive, and the next day ſhould be accounted the 14th of September, omitting, for that time only, the eleven intermediate nominal days; and the following days ſhould be numbered forward in numerical order from the ſaid 14th of September, as now uſed in the preſent calendar: and all acts and writings, executed upon or after the ſaid firſt of January 1752, ſhould bear date according to the new method of ſupputation; and the two fixed terms of St. Hilary and St. Michael in England, and the courts of great ſeſſions in the counties Palatine and in Wales, and the courts of general quarter ſeſſions, and general ſeſſions of the peace, and all other courts and meetings and aſſemblies of any bodies politic or corporate, for the election of officers or members, or for officers entering upon the execution of their reſpective offices, or for any other purpoſe, which by law or uſage, &c. are to be held on any fixed day of any month, or on any day depending on the beginning, or any certain day of any month, except courts uſually holden with fairs or marts, ſhould, after the ſaid 2d of September, be held on the ſame nominal days and times whereon they are now to be holden, but computed according to the new method of numbering, that is, eleven days ſooner than the reſpective days whereon the ſame are now kept.

The years 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300, or any other hundredth year, except every fourth hundredth, whereof the year 2000 ſhall be

made an error of one whole day, and in 400 Julian years an error of 3 days, 1 hour, 53 minutes, and 20 ſeconds, as above; and that ſince the council of Nice in the year 325 the old ſtile had made an error of upwards of 9 days, which in the year 1701 was computed to be 11 days, i. e. ſo much was our error at the commencement of the 18th century; whereby our old ſtile made the vernal equinox happen 11 days ſooner than by the new-ſtile it really does; ſo that our 10th of March ought to be reckoned (as it will now be) the 21ſt of that month. Pope Gregory's main intention in that alteration was to regulate the true time of celebrating the feaſt of eaſter; but our grand concern, in a mercantile ſenſe, was to reduce our ſtile to uniformity with the reſt of Europe; the difference of 11 days frequently occaſioning errors and miſtakes in buſineſs. Moreover, nothing certainly could be more inconvenient (not to ſay abſurd) than to begin our legal year on the 25th of March, whereby a whole year was frequently miſtaken in our hiſtories through inadvertency: the year therefor was now to commence on the 1ſt of January with all the reſt of Chriſtendom, and eſpecially with Scotland; though that country, in other reſpects, had, like England, till now kept to the old ſtile. *A.*

the firſt, ſhall be deemed common years, conſiſting of 365 days; and the years 2000, 2400, 2800, and every other fourth hundredth year from the year 2000 incluſive, and all other years which by the preſent ſupputation are eſteemed to be biſſextile, or leap-years, ſhall for the future be eſteemed to be biſſextile, or leap-years, conſiſting of 366 days, as is now uſed with reſpect to every fourth year.

The feaſt of eaſter, and the moveable feaſts thereon depending, ſhall be no longer obſerved according to the method of ſupputation now uſed, or the table prefixed to the book of common prayer; and the ſaid table, and alſo the column of golden numbers, as they are now prefixed to the reſpective days of the month in the calendar, ſhall be left out in all future editions of the ſaid book; and the new calendar, tables, and rules, annexed to the act, are to be prefixed in the ſtead thereof: and from and after the ſaid 2d of September, the fixed feaſts, holidays, and faſts, of the church of England, and alſo the ſeveral ſolemn days of thankſgiving and of faſting and humiliation, enjoined to be obſerved by parliament, ſhall be obſerved on the reſpective nominal days marked for the celebration of the ſame in the new calendar, that is to ſay, on the reſpective nominal days; and the feaſt of eaſter, and other moveable feaſts thereon depending, ſhall be celebrated according to the ſaid annexed calendar; and the two moveable terms of eaſter and trinity, and all courts, meetings, and aſſemblies, of any bodies politic or corporate, and all markets, fairs, and marts, and courts, thereunto belonging, which by any law, ſtatute, charter, or uſage, are to be held and kept at any moveable time depending upon eaſter, or other moveable feaſt, ſhall, after the ſaid 2d of September, be held and kept on the ſame days and times whereon the ſame ſhall happen, according to the falling of eaſter by the new calendar.

The meetings of the court of ſeſſion, and terms fixed for the court of exchequer in Scotland, the April meeting of the conſervators of the great level of the fens, and the holding and keeping of markets, fairs, and marts, for the ſale of goods or cattle, or for hiring of ſervants, or for other purpoſes, which are fixed to certain nominal days of the month, or depending on the beginning, or any certain day, of any month, and all courts kept with ſuch fairs or marts, ſhall, after the ſaid 2d of September, be kept upon the ſame natural days upon which the ſame would have been held if this act had not been made, i. e. eleven days later than the ſame would happen according to the nominal days of the new ſupputation of time, by which the commencement of each month, and the nominal days thereof, are brought forward eleven days.

But this act ſhall not accelerate or anticipate the days or times for the opening, incloſing, or ſhutting, up of grounds, common of paſture, or the days and times on which a temporary and diſtinct property and right in any ſuch lands or grounds is to commence; but they ſhall be

reſpectively opened, and incloſed, or ſhut up, and ſhall commence on the ſame natural days and times after the ſaid 2d of September as before the making of this act, that is, eleven days later than the ſame would happen according to the new ſupputation of time.

Neither ſhall this act accelerate or anticipate the times of payment of rents, annuities, or other monies, which ſhall become payable in conſequence of any cuſtom, uſage, leaſe, deed, writing, or other contract or agreement, now ſubſiſting, or which ſhall be entered into before the ſaid 14th of September, or which ſhall become payable by virtue of any act of parliament; nor accelerate the payment, or increaſe the intereſt, of any money which ſhall become payable as aforeſaid, or the time of the delivery of any goods or other things whatſoever, or the commencement or determination of any leaſes or demiſes of lands, &c. or other contracts or agreements, annuity, or rent, or of any grant for a term of years, &c. or the time of attaining the age of 21 years, or any other age requiſite by law, uſage, or writing, for doing any act, or for any other purpoſe, by any perſons now born, or who ſhall be born, before the ſaid 14th of September; or the time of the determination of any apprenticeſhip or other ſervice by indenture, or by articles under ſeal, or by reaſon of any ſimple contract or hiring: but all theſe ſhall commence, ceaſe, and determine, at and upon the ſame natural days and times on which they would have happened if this act had not been made.

By a ſubſequent law (of the 25th of George II) to amend this act, it was enacted, 1ſt, that from the 2d of September 1752 the reſpective times for opening, uſing, or incloſing, grounds for common paſture, and the payment of rents, &c. ſhall, if ſuch times are depending on any of the moveable feaſts, take place according to the new calendar: 2dly, the annual admiſſion and ſwearing of the lord-mayor of London at Guildhall hereafter ſhall be on the 8th of November, and the ſolemnity of ſwearing him at the court of exchequer at Weſtminſter on the 9th of the ſame month of November yearly.

It were farther to be wiſhed, that, when the legiſlature were upon a ſubject ſo uſeful to commerce and chronology, they had turned their thoughts to the preſent method of dating acts of parliament from the years of the reigning king, without mentioning the year of our Lord Chriſt, as in the laws of many other nations; whereby much uncertainty and frequent miſtakes happen in computing a number of years between a certain year of one king's reign to a certain year of another king's reign, or to the preſent time. This is frequently complained of, though not yet remedied: yet this may eaſily be remedied in future, by ſuperadding the year of our Lord Chriſt to the year of the reigning king.

The flouriſhing and much-improved condition of the kingdom of Ireland in this year is ſo fully expreſſed in the earl of Orrery's Letters on the life and writings of Dean Swift, publiſhed in this year, that we ſhall tranſcribe it, from *letter* xvi, *p.* 127. 'The preſent ſtate of Ireland 'is in general as flouriſhing as poſſible. Agriculture is cultivated, arts 'and ſciences are encouraged; and in the ſpace of eighteen years no 'kingdom can be more improved. Ireland, in relation to England, 'may be compared to a younger ſiſter lately come of age, after having 'ſuffered all the miſeries of an injured minor, ſuch as lawſuits, en-'croachments upon her property, violation of her rights, deſtruction of 'her tenants, and every evil that can be named. At length, time, and 'her own noble ſpirit of induſtry, have entirely relieved her; and, 'ſome little heartburnings excepted, ſhe enjoys the quiet poſſeſſion of a 'very ample fortune, ſubject, by way of acknowlegement, to certain 'quit-rents payable to the elder branch of her houſe: and let me add, 'by experience, that, take her all in all, ſhe cannot have a greater for-'tune than ſhe deſerves.'

The great and progreſſive improvement of the linen manufacture in Scotland is well worth recording. Between the year 1727, (when an act of parliament paſſed for that end, whereby 21 truſtees were appointed, under the great ſeal, for ſuperintending the ſame), and this year 1751, the following quantities of linen were ſtamped for ſale.

	Yards of linen.	Value.
In five years, 1728—1732 -	17,441,161 -	£662,938
five years, 1733—1737 -	23,734,136 -	897,254
five years, 1738—1742 -	23,366,863 -	949,221
five years, 1743—1747 -	28,227,086 -	1,155,281
And four years, 1748—1751 -	30,172,300 -	1,344,814

N. B. The Britiſh linen company, erected in the year 1746, has been greatly inſtrumental in the advancement of that manufacture in Scotland, by advancing ready money to the poorer manufacturers for their goods: whereby they are enabled to go on with much more ſpirit. The board of truſtees likewiſe beſtow annual premiums for the beſt manufactures; whereby a ſpirit of induſtry increaſes, more than ever, all over Scotland *.

1752.—The African or Guinea trade having been laid more open in a regulated company, by a ſtatute of the 23d of King George II, before recited, it became neceſſary to make a compenſation to the old royal

* Amſterdam, which uſed to be the general warehouſe for all the merchandize of Europe, was now in a great meaſure deprived of that advantage: and the commerce of Hamburgh, by a direct intercourſe with France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy, was riſing faſt upon the decline of the Dutch trade. As a proof of this change, it is obſerved, that the quantities of ſugar, coffee, and indigo, now ſhipped for Amſterdam at Bourdeaux and Nantes, were only in the proportion of one to three of the ſame goods ſhipped for Hamburgh; whereas Amſterdam uſed formerly to take off thrice as much as Hamburgh from thoſe ports. [*Lettre ſur la jalouſie de commerce. p.* 251. *Anſt.* 1771.] *M.*

African company, for their charter, lands, forts, ſlaves, ſtores, and other effects, &c. An act, therefor, was now paſſed, for the application of a ſum of money, therein mentioned, for thoſe purpoſes, and for veſting thoſe lands, forts, &c. in the new company of merchants trading to Africa; for which ends commiſſioners had before been appointed to examine the claims laid before paliament by the late company. And it was now enacted, that the late royal African company ſhould, after the 10th of April 1752, be abſolutely diveſted of their charter, &c. and of all their lands, forts, &c. beginning at the port of Sallee, and extending thence ſouthward to the Cape of Good Hope, together with all their cannon, canoe-men, ſlaves, rights, and evidences, &c. The new company, with the conſent of the board of trade and plantations, are empowered to arm and train military forces at their forts, and to puniſh offences, ſo as not to extend to life or limb; and to erect courts of judicature for mercantile and maritime bargains, &c. and the ſum of L112,142 : 3 : 6 was ordered out of the ſupplies of this ſeſſion, for the compenſation due to the old company.

For the better civilizing and improving the Highlands of Scotland, and preventing diſorders there for the future, an act of paliament of this ſame ſeſſion paſſed for annexing certain forfeited eſtates in Scotland (by the rebellions of the years 1745 and 1746), to the crown unalienably, and for making ſatisfaction to the lawful creditors thereupon; and to eſtabliſh a method of managing the ſame, enacted, that all the lands, lordſhips, baronies, &c. of Simon, late Lord Lovat, &c. ſhall, from the 25th of December 1752, be annexed to the crown unalienable forever, ſaving the rights and claims thereon duely entered in the court of ſeſſion. The clear income of the ſaid lands to be applied to the purpoſes of civilizing the inhabitants upon the ſaid eſtates, and other parts of the Highlands and iſles of Scotland, promoting amongſt them the proteſtant religion, good government, induſtry, and manufactures, and the principles of loyalty and duty to his majeſty, &c. and to no other uſe or purpoſe whatſoever. The king may appoint commiſſioners and truſtees for managing the ſaid eſtates, and for applying the produce for thoſe ends and purpoſes, without having any penſion or reward for the ſame. They may grant leaſes thereof for 21 or 41 years, whereon the leſſees ſhall covenant to lay out on the premiſſes, in buildings and other improvements, in the firſt ſeven years, a ſum not leſs than five years rent; reſerving upon every leaſe not leſs than three fourths of the real annual value of the premiſſes. All ſuch leſſees ſhall take the uſual oaths to the government. No leaſe of lands or tenements, other than mines or fiſhings, ſhall be of greater annual rent than L20 at the moſt. The commiſſioners, with the approbation of the treaſury, may appoint factors on the ſaid eſtates, to whom 5 per cent of the rental ſhall be allowed. The commiſſioners are to appoint a ſurvey of the eſtates to be made, with proper plans of their

extent and qualities, and what improvements may be made thereon; and an abſtract of their proceeding is to be annually reported to the treaſury, copies whereof to be laid before the parliament every ſeſſion. The king may divide large pariſhes (entirely his own), and grant proper proviſions to the miniſters of ſuch new pariſhes, out of the preſent maintenance for the miniſter of the old pariſh, and the remainder out of the rents of the ſaid eſtates, ſo as the ſtipend ſhall not exceed L50 per annum, in money or value, to any one miniſter. The king may erect ſchools on the ſaid eſtates, or in other parts of the Highlands or iſlands of Scotland, for inſtructing young perſons in reading and writing the Engliſh language, and in the ſeveral branches of agriculture and manufactures, and may erect houſes for their reception, and for carrying on ſuch manufactures by them, and for accommodating their maſters; and may apply ſuch parts of the produce of the ſaid eſtates as ſhall be neceſſary for erecting ſuch ſchools, providing ſalaries for the teachers, for clothing and maintaining ſuch young perſons, and for ſupplying the ſchools with utenſils and materials for agriculture and manufactures; and *for the raiſing of flax*, &c. as his majeſty ſhall direct. And the king may empower the commiſſioners to allot portions of land for the uſe of ſuch ſchools, or to apply ſuch part of the clear rent of the lands as he ſhall direct, in the purchaſe of portions of land to be allotted for ſuch ſchools. His majeſty may empower the commiſſioners to grant out in property, portions of ground, not exceeding ten acres to one perſon, to perſons well affected, who ſhall take the oaths to the government, and oblige themſelves to erect dwelling houſes, &c. and gardens thereupon; ſuch grounds to be held feu of his majeſty, for payment of a yearly feu duty equal to ſuch a proportion of the rent as ſhall correſpond to the ground feued out, &c. The king may, out of the rents of the eſtates aforeſaid, erect priſons on ſuch parts of the foreſaid lands, or other parts of the Highlands, as he ſhall think fit, and the ſame ſhall be deemed lawful priſons; and he may make allowance for the maintenance of indigent priſoners, &c.

Of this very good law poſterity will reap the principal benefit; beginnings being already made in ſeveral parts of the Highlands for working-ſchools, to which the moſt laudable ſociety in Scotland for propagating chriſtian knowledge in the Highlands, &c. have lent a helping hand by erecting ſeveral ſchools out of their own income, for the inſtruction of the children: new villages are alſo begun: manufactures, as well as agriculture, are ſet on foot, where none were known before: ſo that it is highly probable, that, in half a century more, the moſt uncultivated parts of that country will wear a very different aſpect.

'For ſeveral years paſt,' ſays Dr. Buſching, in his New geography, 'between 4 and 5000 ſhips have ſailed annually through the Sound: 'but in 1752 above 6000 ſhips (a number unheard of before), paſſed 'through thoſe ſtraits. In general that toll is on an equal footing with

'reſpect to all nations, excepting the Hamburghers, who muſt pay 'more than others: the Engliſh, Dutch, Swediſh, and French, ſhips are 'not ſearched, when provided with proper paſſes, according to treaties, 'and pay down only 1 per cent for ſuch goods as are not ſpecified in 'the tarif; but all other nations pay $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, and muſt ſubmit to 'be ſearched. With regard to the Hanſe towns on the Baltic, there is 'a great variety in the toll they pay, for almoſt every one of thoſe 'towns is treated with in particular.'

This year the king of Naples (afterwards king of Spain), eſtabliſhed a commercial company at Meſſina; principally intended for erecting manufactures of ſilk, ſtuffs, and camblets; the company, for ten years to come, to be exempted from all kinds of duties: and, for their farther encouragement, he has limited the exportation of raw ſilk to half the wonted quantity. Thus almoſt every corner of Europe, in our age, ſtrives to gain ſome part of the commercial advantages, which they clearly obſerve to contribute ſo much to the enrichment and exaltation of nations.

We, the ſame year, learned from Spain, that they are there ſtriving for the increaſe of commerce and manufactures: that of late they have in the kingdom of Valencia 2000 looms for ſilk and woollen; 1000 in Granada; 500 in Catalonia; and that, throughout all Spain, they reckon in all 10,000 ſuch looms, for ſilk, gold, and ſilver tiſſue, middling and coarſe woollen cloths, bays, ſerges, camblets, &c. 'And' (ſays Don Geronymo de Uſtariz, a judicious Spaniſh author) 'they are projecting 'no fewer than 60,000 new looms, whereby, not only to ſupply them-'ſelves and their Indies, but to export to other European nations; and 'to erect I know not how many other new manufactures: of all which 'it will be right to ſuſpend our belief till experience clears it up.'

1753.—By a ſupplemental act of the Britiſh parliament, of the 26th of George II, to explain, amend, and render more effectual, an act of the 23d year of George II, entitled, an Act for the encouragement of the Britiſh white-herring fiſhery, and for regulating the ſaid fiſhery according to the calendar now in uſe, &c.

I) It was now enacted, that the commencement and duration of the fiſheries, as directed by the former act, ſhall hereafter be conformable to the calendar now in uſe.

II) The ſociety ſhall not be intitled to the bounty of thirty ſhillings per ton for ſuch veſſels as ſhall return into port at the end of the fiſhery with a leſs number of hands than they are required (by the firſt act) to have onboard at the rendezvous, unleſs it ſhall appear that ſuch number hath been reduced by death, ſickneſs, or deſertion, without any fraud or colluſion, on the part of the ſociety: and the veſſels are allowed, between the intervals of the Shetland and Yarmouth fiſheries, to put into any port of Great Britain or Ireland, for the purpoſe of chang-

ing their nets, and preparing for the Yarmouth fiſhery; of which fiſhery the fleet of nets may be of any depth not under five fathoms.

III) That the quantity of ſuch white herrings as ſhall hereafter be ſent by the ſociety or their agents to foreign markets, immediately from ſea, without being firſt brought into port, ſhall be aſcertained by the oath of the ſociety's ſuperintendant of the fiſhery. And whereas the place appointed by the firſt act for the rendezvous of the veſſels on the firſt of September is, in many caſes, found inconvenient, it is now enacted, that their veſſels which ſhall rendezvous at Kirkwall in the Orkney iſlands, on or before the 12th of September; and ſhall continue to be employed in fiſhing among the ſholes of herrings, as they move, to the 11th of January (unleſs their loading ſhall be ſooner completed) ſhall, in caſe all the other regulations and conditions in the act be complied with, be intitled to the bounties granted therein, as if they had rendezvouſed at Campbeltown at the time required by that act. No fiſhing veſſel employed in the white-herring fiſhery ſhall be obliged to carry to the later fiſhing more than one fleet of nets.

An act of parliament [*26 Geo. II*] for permitting the exportation of wool, and woollen or bay yarn, from any port of Ireland to any port in Great Britain, ſets forth in its preamble, that the permiſſion of exporting wool, and woollen or bay yarn, only from certain ports in Ireland to certain ports in England, is not of ſo great and extenſive an advantage to the trade of this kingdom as it would be, if all the ports in Great Britain and Ireland were opened for that purpoſe. It was therefor enacted, that, from the 5th of June 1753, any wool, or woollen or bay yarn, wool-fels, ſhortlings, mortlings, wool-flocks, and worſted yarn, may be exported from any port in Ireland to any port in Great Britain. Provided, that exportations and importations be under the ſame reſtrictions and regulations, and in the ſame manner in all reſpects as wool or woollen yarn are now by law permitted to be exported from Dublin, and other therein-named ports of Ireland, to Biddeford, and other therein-named ports of England, or any of them.

In the ſame year an act of parliament reduced the court of directors of the South-ſea company, from three governors and thirty directors to three governors and twenty-one directors, at the ſucceeding general election: and ordained, that no more than fifteen of the directors, who were elected at the laſt preceding general election ſhould be choſen again into that office at the following election. This prudent frugality proceeded from the conſideration of their aſſiento trade being annihilated.

The French having gained a great ſuperiority in the Turkey trade, a petition was preſented to parliament for laying open our Turkey trade entirely. On the other ſide, the Turkey company repreſented, that an open trade to Turkey would but farther decreaſe the Britiſh trade thither. That the more favourable ſituation of the port of Mar-

ſeilles, and other concurring circumſtances not eaſily to be ſurmounted, had gradually given the French their preſent ſuperiority. The parliament therefor paſſed an act of this ſame year, for enlarging and regulating the trade into the Levant ſeas; the ſubſtance of which ſets forth the patent of King James I, ſtill in force at this time, dated 14th December 1605, (as we have recited in its proper place) and alſo that of King Charles II. 'And whereas the company's trade into the Levant 'ſeas has ſince much decreaſed; the taking of leſſer ſines for being 'made free of this company; and the not reſtraining the freedom 'thereof to mere merchants, and to ſuch perſons as, reſiding within 'twenty miles of London, are free of the ſaid city; and the ſecuring 'to all perſons free of the company the liberty of exporting all ſorts of 'goods and merchandize (not forbidden by law) to any place within 'the limits of their charter, from what parts of Great Britain, at what 'times, in what quantity, and on board what legal ſhips, they ſhall re-'ſpectively think proper: and alſo of importing, in the like manner, 'from any place within the limits of the ſaid letters patent, raw ſilk or 'any other lawful merchandize purchaſed within the ſaid limits; are 'the moſt probable means of recovering and extending the trade for 'the benefit of the nation. It was therefor enacted,

I) That after the 24th of June 1754, inſtead of the former reſtraints in the charters of L25, to be paid for the freedom by perſons under twenty-ſix years of age, and L50 by all above that age, the reſtriction of the freedom of the company to freemen of London, to mere merchants, &c. every ſubject of Great Britain, deſiring admiſſion into the Turkey company, ſhall be admitted within thirty days after ſuch requeſt, and ſhall enjoy all the liberties, privileges, &c. granted by the ſaid letters patent, paying for ſuch admiſſion, to the uſe of the company, L20. and no more.

II) From the 24th of June 1754 all perſons, free of the company, may, ſeparately or jointly, export any goods or merchandize (not prohibited by law to be exported) from any place in Great Britain, to any place within the limits of the charter, in Britiſh or plantation-built ſhips, (navigated according to law) at any time, and to any perſons whomſoever being free of the ſaid company, or to the ſons or apprentices of freemen, (ſuch freemen, ſons, or apprentices of freemen, being his majeſty's chriſtian ſubjects) ſo long as they ſhall remain under and ſubmit to the protection and direction of the Britiſh ambaſſador and conſuls reſpectively, for the time being: and may alſo import, in like manner, raw ſilk, or other commodities purchaſed within the limits of the ſaid letters patent (not prohibited by law to be imported) upon paying the king's duties and cuſtoms, and ſuch impoſitions as ſhall be aſſeſſed upon all merchandizes, &c. ſo exported or imported, or upon ſhips laden therewith, for defraying the neceſſary expenſes of the company.

III) The exportation of gold and silver, either in foreign coin or bullion, shall be subject to the bye laws of the company.

IV) The governor, or deputy-governor and company, are empowered, at a general-court, to make such rules, ordinances, or bye laws, for the good government of the company, as the majority of the members present shall think necessary: but they shall not be valid, unless confirmed at a subsequent general court, to be held at least one month after the former. And if seven or more of the freemen shall think themselves aggrieved by any rule, &c. made, or to be made, they may appeal against the same, to the commissioners for trade and plantations, who are required, with all convenient speed, to hear such appeal, and to approve or disapprove of such law, &c. in such manner as shall appear to them to be fit and reasonable: but such rule, ordinance, or bye law, shall be in force till the appeal shall be heard, and disapproved thereby.

V) If any appeal shall be brought against any future rule, ordinance, or bye law, to be made, it shall be brought within twelve months after such rule, &c. shall be made and confirmed: and if any appeal shall be brought against any law, &c. of the company now in force, it shall be brought within twelve months after the 24th of June 1754. And the appellants shall at the same time give notice in writing of such appeal, to the governor, deputy-governor, or secretary, of the company.

Thus the trade from Great Britain to the Levant is hereby as much laid open as seems consistent with the nature of that trade, all things being duely and impartially considered.

Yet, after all, it is very difficult to recover a long-declining trade; especially considering the shortness of the voyage from Marseilles to the Levant, and their needing but one wind all the way, as well as the cheapness of freight, and perhaps some other advantages which the French may have gained from us in this trade. Time alone will decide, whether these new regulations, or what other means, can or will be effectual for regaining that ascendant we once had above all other christian nations in the trade to Turkey.

By an act of parliament, for encouraging and improving the manufacture of linen in the Highlands of Scotland, it was enacted, that as the manufacture of coarse linens hath been increased and improved in Great Britain and Ireland, and as some progress has been made in the manufacture of linen in the Highlands of Scotland, under the directions of the commissioners and trustees for improving fisheries and manufactures in Scotland; and as the encouragement of the manufacture of coarse linens in those parts of the Highlands, wherein the manufacture of linens either hath not been already established, or not advanced to any considerable degree of perfection, will be a farther means of im-

proving and civilizing the Highlands, and the ſucceſs of any proviſion for that purpoſe will tend to the general good of the whole united kingdom, and alſo of Ireland: it is now enacted,

I) That, from the expiration of the term for which bounties, by the herein-recited acts, are granted on the exportation of Britiſh and Iriſh coarſe linens, the annual ſum of L3000 ſhall be paid for nine years to the caſhier of the commiſſioners and truſtees for improving the fiſheries and manufactures in Scotland, and ſhall be applied by them for encouraging and improving the manufacture of linens in the Highlands only.

II) No part of the ſaid ſum ſhall be applied for any other uſe than for inſtructing and exciting the inhabitants of that part of Scotland to raiſe, prepare, and ſpin, flax and hemp to be uſed in the manufacture of coarſe linens, and to weave yarn, there ſpun, into ſuch linen; and for providing the inhabitants with fit materials and utenſils for thoſe purpoſes; and for diſtributing rewards and prizes to the growers, preparers, ſpinners, weavers, and other manufacturers, in reſpect either to the quantity or excellence of the flax or hemp ſo raiſed and prepared, and of the yarn ſo ſpun, wove, or otherwiſe manufactured; and for ſuch other like uſes as the commiſſioners ſhall think proper, for promoting the true intent of this act. The ſaid annual ſum ſhall be paid in like manner as the annual ſum of L2000, and the ſurpluſage of the duty on malt made in Scotland, by the 13th of Geo. I, for encouraging and promoting fiſheries and other manufactories and improvements in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, or as by letters-patent under the great ſeal in Scotland, are directed to be paid.

This year an act of parliament paſſed, for the purchaſe of the muſeum or collection of Sir Hans Sloane, and of the Harleian collection of manuſcripts: and for providing one general repoſitory for the better reception and more convenient uſe of the ſaid collections; and of the famous Cottonian library, and of the additions made and to be made thereto. Now, though this ſtatute has no immediate connection with commercial hiſtory, yet its conſequences are like to prove ſo noble, ſo much to the honour of the nation, and ſo much tending to draw foreigners from all the polite parts of Chriſtendom to London, for viewing ſo incomparable a collection of rich, ſcarce, and matchleſs, curioſities, of nature and art, that we could not paſs it over in ſilence; more eſpecially as, in its more remote conſequences, it is likely to prove hereafter very beneficial to commerce.

The preamble ſets forth, ‘ that Sir Hans Sloane baronet, deceaſed, ‘ having through the courſe of many years, with great labour and ‘ expenſe, gathered together whatever could be procured either in our ‘ own or foreign countries that was rare and curious, by a codicil ‘ bearing date 20th July 1749,—(after having expreſſed his deſire, that

'his ſaid collection, in all its branches, might, if poſſible, be preſerved 'together whole and entire, in his manor-houſe at Chelſea) did deviſe 'to certain truſtees his ſaid muſeum; conſiſting of all his library, 'drawings, manuſcripts, prints, medals, and coins antient and modern, 'antiquities, ſeals, cameos, intaglios, pretious ſtones, agates, jaſpers, 'veſſels of agate and jaſper, chryſtals, mathematical inſtruments, draw-'ings, and pictures; and all other things in his ſaid collection, more 'particularly deſcribed and numbered, with ſhort hiſtories or accounts 'of them, in catalogues by him made, containing thirty-eight volumes 'in folio and eight in quarto; to have and to hold to them, and their 'ſucceſſors and aſſigns forever, for ſuch purpoſes, and with ſuch powers, 'and under ſuch reſtrictions, as in the ſaid codicil are expreſſed; willing 'and deſiring, that the ſaid truſtees ſhould make their humble appli-'cation to his majeſty, or to the parliament, after his deceaſe, to pay 'the ſum of L20,000 to his executors, in conſideration of his ſaid 'muſeum; and alſo to obtain ſuch ſufficient powers, for veſting in the 'ſaid truſtees the ſaid muſeum in all its branches: and alſo to obtain 'a ſufficient fund or proviſion for maintaining and taking care of his 'ſaid collection and premiſes. And as the muſeum is of much greater 'intrinſic value than the ſum of L20,000, and as all arts and ſciences 'have a connection with each other, and diſcoveries in natural phi-'loſophy and other branches of ſpeculative knowlege (for the ad-'vancement and improvement whereof the ſaid collection was intended) 'do and may, in many inſtances, give help and ſucceſs to uſeful expe-'riments and inventions, it is enacted,

'I) That L20,000 be paid to the executors of Sir Hans Sloane for the ſaid muſeum.

'II) And whereas by an act of the 12th and 13th of King William III, 'for better ſettling and preſerving the library kept in the houſe at Weſt-'minſter, called Cotton-houſe, in the name of the family of the 'Cottons, for the benefit of the public; reciting, that Sir Robert 'Cotton, late of Conington in the county of Huntingdon, baronet, 'did, at his own great charge, and by the aſſiſtance of the moſt learned 'antiquaries of his time, collect and purchaſe the moſt uſeful manu-'ſcripts, written books, papers, parchments, records, and other memo-'rials, in moſt languages; of great uſe and ſervice for the knowlege 'and preſervation of our conſtitution in church and ſtate: and farther 'reciting, that the ſaid library had been preſerved with the utmoſt 'care by Sir Thomas Cotton, ſon of the ſaid Sir Robert, and by Sir 'John Cotton, (then living) grandſon of the ſaid Sir Robert; and had 'been very much augmented by them, and lodged in a very proper 'place in the ſaid Sir Robert's antient manſion-houſe at Weſtminſter, 'for public uſe and advantage.—III) That the truſtees thereby ap-'pointed ſhall have the ſaid Cotton-houſe and gardens, &c. and alſo the

'said library veſted in them and their ſucceſſors forever, for the purpoſes therein mentioned, upon truſt, to inſpect, conſult, and take 'care of the ſaid library; and ſhall appoint a perſon well read in 'antiquities and records to have the immediate care thereof. IV) 'and an act of the 5th of Queen Anne, for the better ſecuring her 'majeſty's purchaſe of the ſaid Cotton-houſe, recites, that the queen 'might render ſo great a treaſure of books and manuſcripts uſeful to 'her own ſubjects and to all learned foreigners, ſhe had purchaſed the 'ſaid Cotton-houſe and garden, for L4500 of Sir John Cotton; and 'that a convenient room ſhould be built, wherein the ſaid library 'ſhould be lodged, and ſhould be called by the name of Cottonian-'library; to be managed by the truſtees therein mentioned, for the 'uſe of the public forever: which library, however, (for want of a 'proper repoſitory) did, in the year 1731, ſuffer by a fire, which con-'ſumed the houſe wherein the ſame was then placed; and what re-'mains of the ſaid library ſtill continues in the ſame inconvenient 'room to which (upon occaſion of that fire) it was removed. And 'farther recites, that Arthur Edwards Eſquire, being deſirous to pre-'ſerve for the public uſe the ſaid library, did, by will dated in 1738, 'deviſe L7000 (after the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Milles) to erect, in a 'proper ſituation, ſuch a houſe as might be moſt likely to preſerve the 'ſaid library from future accidents. But, if, before that bequeſt 'ſhould take place, ſuch a building ſhall be erected, then the ſaid ſum 'ſhall be employed in purchaſing ſuch manuſcripts, books of antiqui-'ties, antient coins, medals, and other curioſities, as might be worthy 'to increaſe and enlarge the ſaid library. He did alſo thereby give to 'the ſaid truſtees all his books, in caſes, and alſo his pictures; which 'have been placed, according to his deſire, in the ſaid library.

'V) And whereas the right honourable the counteſs dowager of 'Oxford and Mortimer, and the moſt noble the ducheſs of Portland, 'her only daughter, have expreſſed their approbation of a propoſal for 'the purchaſe of the valuable collection of manuſcripts collected by 'the late earl of Oxford, and by his father, in conſideration of 'L10,000, on condition that the ſame ſhall be kept together in a proper 'repoſitory, as an addition to the Cottonian library, and to be called 'by the name of the Harleian collection of manuſcripts: it is now 'enacted, that L10,000 ſhall be paid for them to the ſaid counteſs's 'truſtees. The ſaid collection of manuſcripts to be placed and con-'tinued in the ſame repoſitory in which the Cottonian library is 'hereafter to be placed. The archbiſhop of Canterbury, the lord 'chancellor (or lord keeper), the lord treaſurer (or firſt commiſſioner 'of the treaſury), the lord preſident of the council, the lord privy-ſeal, 'the lord high-admiral (or firſt commiſſioner of the admiralty), the 'lord ſteward and lord chamberlain of his majeſty's houſehold, the

' biſhop of London, each of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, being a
' being a peer or lord of parliament, the ſpeaker of the houſe of com-
' mons, each of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, not being a peer or
' lord of parliament, the chancellor of the exchequer, the lord chief
' juſtice of the king's bench, the maſter of the rolls, the lord chief
' juſtice of the common pleas, his majeſty's attorney general and ſolici-
' tor general, the preſident of the royal ſociety, the preſident of the
' royal college of phyſicians; together with Charles lord Cadogan, and
' Hans Stanley Eſquire; with Samuel Boroughs and Thomas Hart
' Eſquires (two of the preſent truſtees of the Cottonian library); toge-
' ther alſo with the moſt noble William duke of Portland, and the
' right honourable Edward earl of Oxford and Mortimer; ſhall be
' truſtees for putting this act into execution: and they, or the major
' part of them, in a general meeting aſſembled (whereof the arch-
' biſhop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, or lord keeper, and the
' ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, ſhall be three) ſhall nominate
' fifteen other perſons to be aſſociates to them, and who ſhall continue
' truſtees for life: and on the death of any ſuch truſtee, the reſt ſhall,
' in like manner, elect another in his place, and ſo *toties quoties*.

' VI) One general repoſitory ſhall be provided in ſuch convenient
' place within the cities of London or Weſtminſter, or their ſuburbs,
' as the truſtees ſhall direct, for the reception of Sloane's muſeum, the
' Cottonian library (and the additions to be made thereto by virtue
' of the will of the ſaid Arthur Edwards Eſquire); and alſo of the Har-
' leian manuſcripts; and of ſuch other additions to the Cottonian library
' as ſhall be made; and of ſuch other collections and libraries, as, with
' the approbation of the truſtees for this act, ſhall be admitted into the
' ſaid general repoſitory. And the muſeum of Sir Hans Sloane, in all
' its branches, ſhall therein be kept together and entire, with proper
' marks of diſtinction. Alſo the Harleian collection of manuſcripts
' ſhall be kept together in the general repoſitory, as an addition to the
' Cottonian library.

' VII) The truſtees ſhall be one body politic and corporate, and ſhall
' have ſucceſſion forever, by the name of the truſtees of the Britiſh
' muſeum; with a common ſeal; and may ſue and be ſued, make bye
' laws, &c. with power to purchaſe and enjoy, for the purpoſes of this
' act, as well goods and chattles, as lands, tenements, and hereditа-
' ments, not exceeding L500 yearly. They may at a general meeting,
' from time to time, make ſtatutes and rules for the cuſtody, preſerva-
' tion, and inſpection, of the before-named ſeveral collections; may
' appoint the ſalaries of officers, and may diſplace ſuch at pleaſure.
' And the archbiſhop of Canterbury, chancellor, and ſpeaker, or any
' two of them, ſhall recommend to his majeſty two fit perſons, for the
' king to name one of them to be principal librarian. And the reſt of

'the officers and ſervants ſhall be appointed by thoſe three, or any two 'of them; who are hereby empowered, in caſe of the ſickneſs or other 'neceſſary abſence of thoſe officers, to appoint deputies to ſupply their 'places.

'VIII) Free acceſs to the ſaid general repoſitory ſhall be given by 'the truſtees to all ſtudious and curious perſons, at ſuch times, in ſuch 'manner, and under ſuch regulations, for inſpecting and conſulting 'the ſame, as by the truſtees, at a general meeting, ſhall be limited 'for that purpoſe.

'IX) A lottery for L300,000 in tickets of L3 each, is hereby ap- 'pointed for the purpoſes aforeſaid; and twice 50,000 tickets, at L3 'each, were to be iſſued for that end; the firſt 50,000 tickets to deter- 'mine the fate of the ſecond 50,000 tickets:"* And the profits ariſing from that lottery were to pay the ſum of L20,000 to Sir Hans Sloane's executors, and L10,000 to the counteſs of Oxford; the expenſe of purchaſing a general repoſitory for receiving the muſeum from Sir Hans's manor-houſe at Chelſea, receiving the manuſcripts of the late earl of Oxford, and removing the Cottonian library; and alſo for ſalaries to officers and ſervants, and the neceſſary furniture of the general repoſitory, and ſuch cabinets, book-caſes, and other neceſſaries and embelliſhments as the condition of the ſeveral collections ſhall require.

We ſhall only farther add, that ſince this act was paſſed, the truſtees have purchaſed and fitted up the elegant palace of the late duke of Montague, for the reception of the different collections; an houſe worthy to be the general repoſitory of the richeſt and nobleſt collection in the univerſe;—a collection ſo rich, ſo vaſt, and ſo amazing, as literally to require days inſtead of hours, for the mere peruſal of it.

An act of parliament paſſed this ſeſſion to render more effectual an act of the 12th year of Queen Anne, for providing a public reward for ſuch perſon or perſons as ſhall diſcover the longitude at ſea, and to enlarge the number of commiſſioners for putting in execution the ſaid act. This ſtatute (after reciting the former act) now enacts, that whereas a competent number of the commiſſioners for the longitude have heard and received ſeveral propoſals, at different times, for that diſcovery, and were ſo far ſatisfied of the probabilities of ſuch diſcoveries, that they thought it proper to make experiments thereof, and certified the ſame to the commiſſioners of the navy, with the name of Mr. John Harriſon, author of the ſaid propoſals, who thereupon received

* In this lottery only L200,000 were paid in prizes to the adventurers, and L100,000 (deducting only the expenſe of the lottery) remained to this general repoſitory: ſo diſadvantageous a lottery having never before been countenanced by authority. *A.*

By this lottery the holders of 100,000 tickets collectively and voluntarily contributed twenty ſhillings each for the eſtabliſhment of the BRITISH MUSEUM, one of the nobleſt inſtitutions in the kingdom, the advantages of which are immediately or mediately enjoyed by every perſon in the whole world who has a taſte for literature or natural philoſophy. Where has L100,000 of Britiſh money ever been better employed? *M.*

L1250, as part of L2000, allotted by the former act; which the commiſſioners thought neceſſary for making the ſaid experiments. And whereas a like competent number of commiſſioners for the longitude did appoint Mr. William Whiſton to ſurvey and determine the longitude and latitude of the chief ports and headlands on the coaſts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the iſlands and plantations thereunto belonging, for which purpoſe L500 more (part of the ſaid L2000) was applied; ſo that the commiſſioners have now only L250 remaining of the ſaid L2000. And as, from the experiments already made, there is great reaſon to expect, that by continuing to encourage ingenious perſons to make farther improvements, ſuch diſcoveries may at length be produced as will effectually anſwer the end, and thereby contribute very much to the advantage of the trade and honour of this kingdom; it is therefor hereby enacted, that any five of the ſaid commiſſioners ſhall have full power to hear and receive propoſals for diſcovering the longitude; and where they ſhall be ſo far ſatisfied of the probability of any ſuch propoſal or diſcovery, as to think it proper to make experiment thereof, they ſhall certify the ſame, together with the names of the authors, to the commiſſioners of the navy, who ſhall thereupon make out bills for ſuch ſums (not exceeding L2000, over and above the ſaid L250) as the commiſſioners for the longitude ſhall think neceſſary for making ſuch experiments. The governor of Greenwich hoſpital, the judge of the admiralty court, the ſecretaries of the treaſury, the ſecretary of the admiralty board, and the comptroller of the navy, ſhall be joint commiſſioners with thoſe appointed by the act of the 12th of Queen Anne, for diſcovering the longitude.

By an act of the 7th of King James II, and another of the 13th of King George II, all ſuch as were to be naturalized were firſt to receive the ſacrament of the Lord's ſupper, and to take the legal oaths to the king; whereby many perſons of conſiderable ſubſtance, profeſſing the Jewiſh religion, are prevented from being ſo naturalized. It was now therefor enacted, 'that Jews may, upon application, be naturalized 'by parliament, without receiving the ſacrament, provided they, and 'all others hereafter to be naturalized, ſhall be abſolutely ſubject to 'the diſabilities expreſſed in an act of the 1ſt of king George I, (re-'cited in its place); and alſo who ſhall have previouſly inhabited for 'three years in his majeſty's dominions, without being abſent above 'three months at any one time. Laſtly, hereafter, all Jews are hereby 'diſabled from purchaſing or inheriting any advowſon, or right of 'patronage, or preſentation, or other right to any benefice, prebend, 'or other eccleſiaſtical living or promotion, ſchool, hoſpital, or dona-'tive.' As no ill uſe could be made of this new privilege to the Jews, and as it might have drawn many perſons of great ſubſtance to ſettle with their wealth among us, and might conſequently farther promote

the national commerce, many could not then ſee that it ſhould reaſonably have given any juſt offence to moderate and rational chriſtians. Nevertheleſs, this act was repealed in the following ſeſſion of parliament; for which repeal the reaſons aſſigned were, that occaſion had been taken from it to raiſe diſcontents, and to diſquiet the minds of many of his majeſty's ſubjects: wherefor it was now repealed to all intents and purpoſes.

The following account of the trade of South-Carolina, tranſmitted this year, is well worth recording, viz.

Exports and imports of Charleſtown from the 12th of November 1752 to the 12th of July 1753.

Exported.		Imported.
Rice, - -	31,418 barrels.	Rum, 921 hogſheads, 30 tierces, 93 barrels.
Pitch, - -	13,814	Sugar, 113 hogſheads, 5 tierces, 160 barrels, 65 baſkets.
Tar, - -	6,221	Indian corn, 63,315 buſhels.
Turpentine,	3,808	Negroes, 511.
Beef, - -	263	Flour, 3425 barrels.
Pork, - - -	234	Salt, 9463 buſhels.
Deer ſkins, -	203 hogſheads.	Madeira wine, 230 hogſheads, 44 barrels.
Lumber, -	591,412 feet.	
Shingles, -	581,020 pieces.	
Caſk-ſtaves,	78,932	

They export from Carolina quantities of fine oranges and lemons,* of various kinds, to the more northern plantations on the continent; and this would be a great branch of their trade, if thoſe fruits could keep croſs the Ocean to Great Britain; but it ſeems (after frequent trials) they cannot generally effect it. There are ſundry kinds of drugs produced in, and exported from Carolina, though not mentioned or particularized in this ſummary account; which, however, may be ſufficient to give a tolerable idea of the increaſing trade of that fine province.

A paragraph from the Dublin newſpapers, in November in this year 1753, obſerves, that by a late accurate ſurvey and computation, there have been found no fewer than 4000 new houſes erected (i. e. on new foundations) in that city and ſuburbs ſince the year 1711, moſtly to the ſouth and weſt of the town. In England (adds that news writer) Liverpool, Sheffield, Mancheſter, Leeds, and Birmingham, have increaſed more in proportion, in the ſaid forty-two years. He might have added Briſtol, alſo greatly increaſed, as alſo Glaſgow, and other places. This increaſe, however, of Dublin, is indeed very great; and if, as it is generally remarked, there are eight perſons, one with an-

* No oranges or lemons are now exported from Carolina, which on the contrary receives thoſe fruits from the Weſt-India iſlands. There is no mention of indigo in this account; but ſo ſoon after it as the year 1757 there were 754,218 pounds of that article ſhipped from Charleſtown. *M.*

other, in every houſe in Dublin, then this increaſe amounts to 32,000 perſons in forty-two years time.

The increaſe of Mancheſter, Sheffield, Birmingham, Froom, Leeds, Briſtol, Liverpool, Glaſgow, &c. has proceeded principally from our general increaſe in manufactures and foreign commerce; Dublin partly by that, and alſo by the great reſort to it, as being the ſeat of government, and by the increaſe of luxury in an enormous degree. The other places, by their woollen, linen, and iron, &c. manufactures; and from the vaſt increaſe of the foreign trade and navigation of Briſtol, Liverpool, Hull, Glaſgow, &c.

In the compaſs of this ſame year 1753, there entered the port of Marſeilles 1264 ſhips.

And into the port of Cadiz about 1100 ſhips.*

1754.—The year 1754 gave birth to one of the nobleſt deſigns for the improvement of the general commerce of Great Britain which could poſſibly have been deviſed, viz. the voluntary ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce; its ſole object being purely and moſt diſintereſtedly the improvement of ingenious and commercial arts, for exciting emulation and induſtry, by honorary and pecuniary rewards. It was ſet on foot by means of the late Lord Folkſtone, Lord Romney, the late reverend and excellent Dr. Stephen Hales, and a few other private gentlemen: and as there were already two ſocieties of a ſimilar kind in Scotland and Ireland, this ſociety confined its premiums ſolely to that part of Great Britain called England, and to our own colonies, plantations, and ſettlements, in America, Africa, and Aſia. This noble ſociety immediately began to advertiſe premiums for the encouragement of young people of both ſexes in the arts of drawing and deſigning; for the encouragement alſo of our planters in America in raiſing all the rich and pretious productions of Spaniſh and Portugueſe America, as well as of Aſia and Africa. Its utility ſuddenly began to be ſo well perceived, that many noblemen and eminent gentlemen, merchants, traders, &c. became members and ſubſcribers to it, to the number of conſiderably above 1000 perſons. Their preſent conſtitution conſiſts of one preſident, eight vice-preſidents, a ſecretary, and a regiſter, annually elected. Every perſon deſiring to be a member, muſt be propoſed by ſome member at one meeting, who muſt give in his name, &c. ſigned by himſelf, and muſt be balloted for at a ſucceeding meeting; and if two thirds of the ſaid meeting be for admitting him, he ſhall be deemed a perpetual member, on payment of twenty guineas, or elſe a ſubſcribing member, on payment of any year

* In April 1753 the dividend of the bank of England was reduced from *five* to *four and a half per cent, per annum*; the loweſt rate at which the dividends of the bank have ever been, and at which they continued till October 1764. [*Account inſerted in the appendix to Allardyce's Addreſs to the proprietors of the bank.*] *M.*

ly ſum not leſs than two guineas: yet all noblemen, and alſo ſome gentlemen, ſubſcribe five guineas each, and others four, or three guineas yearly. They have now no ſingle treaſurer, all their money being lodged at the bank of England, to be drawn out as wanted. All queſtions are determined either by holding up of hands, or by ballot, if inſiſted on. They generouſly invite all mankind to propoſe ſubjects for their encouragement, and when approved of by a committee, and confirmed by a general meeting, the matters propoſed, with their premiums, are annually publiſhed in newſpapers, &c. and all poſſible partiality in the diſtribution of premiums is carefully obviated, by concealing the claimants names, and appointing committees for the ſtrict examination of their merits, and occaſionally conſulting the moſt ſkilful artiſts. Their meetings are well attended, a laudable zeal being by all exerted for the improvement of the fine arts, as well as of manufactures and commerce. From ſuch truely noble and diſintereſted intentions, and ſuch an extenſive plan for the advancement of the wealth, power, and glory, of their country, what may not reaſonably be hoped for. May they increaſe more and more, both in the number of their members, and in their revenue; in which all lovers of their country will ſurely cordially join their ardent wiſhes.

A mercantile author, under the year 1754, juſtly enough remarks the uncertainty of exactly computing the number of the trading ſhipping of England: but when he conjectures they may be about 2000 ſhips in foreign trade, amounting in tonnage to about 170,000 tons, And about the like number of coaſting veſſels, which may contain in tonnage about - - 150,000

Total tonnage, by his account, - 320,000

he is ſurely ſhort of the mark in both reſpects, more eſpecially in the coaſting tonnage, conſidering the great number of colliers ſhips, large and ſmall.

When I was at Briſtol in the year 1743, I took ſome pains in inquiring at their cuſtom-houſe concerning their foreign and coaſting trades, and the general anſwer was, that Briſtol had upwards of 400 ſhips, greater and leſſer, employed in foreign trade, including their trade to Ireland; but the number of coaſters they could not aſcertain, but only ſaid, that they were undoubtedly very many. Since that time, it is ſaid, that Liverpool has gained ground, in ſome trades, of Briſtol, and may probably have about 300 ſhips in foreign trade, beſide their coaſters. Now, if the number of ſhips trading beyond ſea, from all the other ports of Great Britain, or even of England alone, were exactly known, the whole may very probably amount to conſiderably, perhaps one half, more than 2000 ſhips trading beyond ſea, more eſpecially if the account given of London's ſhipping, which Maitland, in his Survey

of London, ſays was taken from the general regiſter at the cuſtom-houſe for the year 1732, and therefor an authentic one, be genuine. Moreover, as he thinks, London poſſeſſes one fourth part of the foreign trade of the whole nation, becauſe ſhe pays three twelfths of all the cuſtoms; then, if, as by his account of London's ſhipping, they amounted to 1417 ſhips, navigated by 21,797 ſeamen; and that in the year 1728, there arrived in the port of London from all parts beyond ſea 1839 Britiſh ſhips, 213 foreign ſhips, and 6837 coaſters, which laſt muſt generally imply they were Britiſh, ſurely the firſt computation muſt be far ſhort of the tonnage, foreign and coaſting, of the whole kingdom, which ſome conjecture to amount to at leaſt 500,000 tons. The number, however, of London's ſhipping, has very conſiderably increaſed ſince the year 1732.

The bold and long-projected ſcheme of France, for hemming in our American colonies between theirs and the Ocean, by erecting a chain of forts all along the weſt ſide of our colonies as far as the bay of Mexico, began now to ſhew itſelf more openly, though in a time of profound peace. Immediately after the laſt peace of Aix-la-Chapelle they had inſtructed their Indians and Canadians to diſtreſs and plunder our Indian traders in the country about the great and far-extended river Ohio, though properly ſubject to the Britiſh crown, as being a conqueſt of the five Iroquois nations, allowed by France in the treaty of Utrecht to be under the Britiſh dominion.

It was reaſon enough for their purpoſe, that the poſſeſſion of the river Ohio ſeemed to them abſolutely requiſite for their great purpoſe of connecting Canada with Louiſiana, or the Miſſiſippi country. For that end they now deſtroyed our fort in that country, after defeating Colonel Waſhington, whereupon they erected another in its ſtead, which they named Fort Du Queſne.

We had in the ſame year, 1754, in the public news from France, an extraordinary inſtance of the great increaſe of their Eaſt-India commerce from Port L'Orient, the ſtation of their Eaſt-India ſhipping, and of all their warehouſes and magazines, viz. that the ſale of the cargoes of fifteen French Eaſt-India ſhips then amounted to about thirty-ſix millions of livres, or about one million and an half ſterling money. And upon this occaſion it was remarked, that from the year 1664, when this company was firſt eſtabliſhed, to the year 1725, the courſe of exchange between France and the other ſtates of Europe was generally to the diſadvantage of France, becauſe thoſe countries ſupplied her with more merchandize than they took off from her: but that, ever ſince the year 1726, when the French Eaſt-India company, by their great importations from India, began to counterbalance the Engliſh and Dutch in that trade, the courſe of exchange has been generally in favour of France.

1755.—By an act of the 28th of King George II, for farther explaining, amending, &c. an act of the 23d of that king, for the encouragement of the Britiſh white-herring fiſhery, it was enacted, that the ſeveral allowances of three per cent, on all the principal money employed by the corporation of the free Britiſh fiſhery, and alſo the bounty of 30/ per ton on their ſhipping, be farther continued for three years from the expiration of the former term, with ſome other leſſer privileges now enacted, ſuch as liberty to let to hire any of their buſſes to others, ſo as they may be employed in the fiſheries only, with ſome other benefits relating to the tonnage bounty, and to their fiſhing at other ſtations than thoſe directed by former acts, &c.

In this ſame year, by an act [28 *Geo. II*] for continuing, explaining, and amending, the ſeveral acts made for the further encouragement of the whale fiſhery, &c. it is, *inter alia*, enacted,

'I) That every ſhip employed in that fiſhery ſhall have onboard an 'apprentice, indentured for three years at leaſt, for every fifty tons 'burthen, who ſhall be accounted as one of the number of men who 'by law ought to be onboard ſuch ſhip.

'II) That no ſhip employed in the fiſhery, above the burthen of 400 'tons, ſhall be entitled to a larger bounty than a ſhip of 400 tons would 'be entitled to.

'III) Ships under 200 tons burthen ſhall hereafter be intitled to the 'bounty of 40/ per ton, as well as thoſe of 200 tons and upwards, are 'intitled to it by former ſtatutes.'

On the firſt of November, this year, the dreadful earthquake began, by which the great and mercantile city of Liſbon was almoſt utterly overturned and deſtroyed by repeated ſhocks for ſeveral ſucceeding days: whereupon the king and parliament of Great Britain, to teſtify their great compaſſion for the ſufferers, and in general their great regard for the king of Portugal and his ſubjects, ſpeedily ſent thither L100,000 ſterling, for the relief of the diſtreſſed ſurviving inhabitants of Liſbon, in money and proviſions.

During the courſe of the year 1755 we were adviſed from Port L'Orient, that no fewer than twenty-five French Eaſt-India company's ſhips had ſailed thence for India and China, which ſhews the vaſt increaſe of the French Eaſt-Indian commerce in a few years.

The Engliſh Eaſt-India company's diſputes with the French company in India, which had brought on the loſs of Fort St. George, our principal ſettlement there (though afterward reſtored by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle) having occaſioned a large debt on that company in India, their neceſſary payments alſo of many ſubſidies to the nabobs and other great officers in India, for keeping them in their intereſt, together with the military force they were at this time obliged to keep up in India, altogether induced the company about the end of the year 1755 to re-

duce their dividend from eight to ſix per cent per annum, to take place at midſummer 1756, though twenty-one of their ſhips arrived ſafe from India in the courſe of this year with cargoes valued above two millions ſterling.

1756.—On Tueſday the 18th of May 1756, war was declared by the king of Great Britain againſt France.

On the 29th of June, Fort St. Philip, the only defenſible place in the iſland of Minorca, ſurrendered to the French.

This year ſeveral good laws were paſſed for ſupporting the war againſt France, and for the encouragement and regulation of the Britiſh commerce and navigation in general, viz.

The 5th public act, to enable foreigners to ſerve as military officers in America.

The 11th, for ſupplying mariners onboard ſhips of war and merchant ſhips.

The 15th, for granting bounties on Britiſh and Iriſh linens exported.

The 23d, for encouraging the fiſheries in Scotland.

The 26th, for ſecuring and encouraging the trade of the ſugar colonies in America.

The 33d, for regulating the wages of workmen in the woollen manufacture.

The 34th, for the encouragement of ſeamen, and the more ſpeedy manning of the royal navy.

All which, though of a public nature, are not ſo important as to be even barely abridged in ſo general a work as ours.

1757.—By an authentic account of the amount of the linen cloth, ſtamped for ſale in Scotland from the 1ſt of November 1756 to the 1ſt of November 1757, it amounts to 9,764,408$\frac{7}{8}$ yards, valued at L401,511:9 ſterling: and in the year 1757, the manufacture had been increaſed 1,217,255$\frac{1}{4}$ yards, valued at L33,789:18 more than in the preceding year.

This was a very ſcarce year all over Europe for wheat and ſundry other proviſions, whereby the poor of Great Britain ſuffered not a little in their dayly ſuſtenance, and perſons of middling circumſtances were put to a conſiderable additional expenſe, in conſequence of which the following ſtatutes were enacted, viz.

An act to prohibit, for a time to be limited, the exportation of corn, malt, meal, flour, bread, biſcuit, and ſtarch.

An act to diſcontinue, for a limited time, the duties upon corn and flour imported, &c.

An act to prohibit the exportation of corn, grain, meal, malt, flour, beef, pork, bacon, &c. from America, unleſs to Great Britain or Ireland, and to permit the importation thereof into Great Britain and Ireland in neutral ſhips, &c.

An act to continue the laſt-named act, for diſcontinuing the duties upon corn and flour imported, &c.

Alſo an act for continuing an act of this ſame ſeſſion, to prohibit, for a limited time, the making of low wines and ſpirits from wheat, barley, malt, &c. or from any meal or flour.

1758.—By a ſtatute of the next ſeſſion of parliament, the above ſtatutes for remedying the dearth of corn and other proviſions, are farther prolonged to the 24th of December 1758.

And by another ſtatute of the ſame year, the importation of ſalted beef, pork, and butter, into Great Britain from Ireland, at the time of ſo great a dearth of all kinds of proviſions, was permitted for ſix months from midſummer 1758, free from the payment of all ſubſidies, cuſtoms, &c. excepting 1/3 per cwt. for ſuch beef and pork imported, and 4*d* per cwt. on ſalted butter; (altered next ſeſſion to 3/4 per barrel for ſalted beef, pork, or butter; and 1/3 per cwt. for dried beef tongues, or dried hogs meat) in order to be adequate to the duty payable for ſuch quantity of ſalt as is requiſite in curing and ſalting thereof. [31 *Geo. II, c.* 28.]

In the ſame ſeſſion was paſſed an act for the due making of bread; and to regulate the price and aſſize thereof; and to puniſh perſons who ſhall adulterate meal, flour, or bread. This act was principally occaſioned by accounts dayly publiſhed of certain bakers mixing lime, alum, and other unwholeſome ingredients, in that time of ſcarcity, in their bread. The legiſlature therefor took that matter into their ſerious conſideration, and took this opportunity likewiſe of examining an act of the 51ſt of King Henry III, intitled, *Aſſiza panis et cereviſiæ*, (i. e. the aſſize of bread and ale) and another act of the 8th year of Queen Anne, to regulate the price and aſſize of bread; whereby ſo much of the former act as related to the aſſize of bread was repealed. The act of Queen Anne, with ſeveral alterations and amendments made thereto by ſome ſubſequent acts, was continued till the 24th of June 1757, and to the end of the then next ſeſſion of parliament. This preſent ſtatute, therefor, reduced into one act all the ſeveral laws in force, relating to the due making, and to the prices and aſſize, of bread, all preceding ſtatutes being thereby repealed: and new tables for the aſſize and prices of the various kinds of bread were therein promulgated, as alſo what relates to the prices of the three ſorts of wheat, wheaten, and houſehold flour, of rye and rye-meal; of barley and barley-meal; of oats and oat-meal; of white peas and white pea-flour or meal; and of beans and bean-flour. Sundry clauſes were alſo added, for preventing frauds in the prices of corn, flour, and meal; and for puniſhing bakers who mix different ſorts of flour or meal in their bread, or put into their bread any unwholſome ingredients. [31 *Geo. II, c.* 29.]

The harbour of Dover ſtill wanting additional improvements, which, it is too much to be apprehended, it will ever want, notwithſtanding

ſundry former ſtatutes for that end, and particularly that of the 11th and 12th of King William III, whereby ſeveral duties were laid on coals and on ſhips and veſſels, for raiſing a ſum, not exceeding L30,100; that of the 2d of Queen Anne, and the 2d and 4th of King George I, &c.) and the truſtees for Dover harbour having borrowed L3000 more on the duties in thoſe acts ſpecified, which is not as yet repaid; and as it would tend greatly to the preſervation of his majeſty's ſhips of war, and to the protection and encouragement of trade, that the ſaid harbour ſhould be effectually repaired; but the money ariſing by the rates and duties granted for that end not being ſufficient, it was therefor now enacted, that after the expiration of the former term, one moiety of the former rates and duties ſhould be continued for the term of 21 years longer, applicable to the ſupport of Dover harbour, and for diſcharging the debt of L3000, &c. It is much to be wiſhed, though little to be expected, that this harbour, ſo happy in point of ſituation, may at length anſwer the great expenſe beſtowed on it.

Sundry other uſeful ſtatutes were made in the ſame ſeſſion of parliament; as,

For the benefit and encouragement of ſeamen employed in the royal navy, and for eſtabliſhing a regular method for the punctual, frequent, and certain, payment of their wages, and for enabling them more eaſily and readily to remit the ſame for the ſupport of their wives and families; and for preventing frauds and abuſes attending ſuch payments. [31 *Geo. II, c.* 10.]

An act for applying a ſum of money towards carrying on the works for fortifying and ſecuring the harbour of Milford in the county of Pembroke. The preamble thereof ſets forth, that this harbour is more conveniently ſituated for fitting out fleets, and ſtationing cruiſers, than any other harbour in this kingdom; and from the many great local advantages attending it, would, if properly fortified and ſecured, greatly tend to facilitate the naval operations of this kingdom, hitherto too frequently retarded, and ſometimes entirely fruſtrated, from the want of ſuch a port of equipment. L10,000 was therefor to be iſſued for making a beginning to the work, and for purchaſing neceſſary lands, &c. for that end; much to the credit of our own age, after having ſo long and often talked of it in this and the preceding century. It is allowed to be the very beſt haven in Great Britain; ſince, according to thoſe who have ſurveyed it, 1000 ſail of ſhips may ſafely ride in it at a convenient diſtance from each other; it has thirteen roads, ſixteen creeks, and five bays, all known by their reſpective names; its ſituation is moſt happy, by being without the channel, which gives it ſuch an advantage over Portſmouth and Plymouth, as will overbalance any expenſe which its fortifying, &c. may occaſion, more eſpecially in time of any war with the more ſouthern nations of Europe. [31 *Geo. II, c.* 37.]

An act for veſting certain meſſuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, for better ſecuring his majeſty's docks, ſhips, and ſtores, at Portſmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth, and for fortifying the town of Portſmouth, and the citadel of Plymouth, in truſtees, for certain uſes; and for other purpoſes therein mentioned. [31 *Geo, II, c.* 38.]

By a ſtatute of the year following, compenſation was to be made to the proprietors of ſuch lands as were purchaſed for the purpoſes of this act.

About this time, an ingenious piece was publiſhed at Paris, intitled, *Les interéts de la France mal entendus* (the true intereſt of France not rightly underſtood), principally deſigned for promoting the huſbandry and agriculture of that kingdom, alleged, very truely by the author, to have been too much neglected, both in the reign of the preſent French king, and alſo by his predeceſſor Louis XIV, for the ſake of manufactures and of military glory, while the French remained dependent on England for their very bread or corn: he ſuppoſes, for argument's ſake, the value of the riches of France to be one thouſand millions of livres, which would produce 50 millions of livres yearly intereſt, which being divided among ſeventeen millions of people, it would ſupply 59 ſols (or two livres nineteen ſols) towards the ſubſiſtence of each individual perſon. He alſo ſuppoſes the whole expenſe of every one of the ſaid ſeventeen millions of people, on an average, to be 160 livres yearly, which, at $10\frac{1}{2}d$ ſterling per livre, is, in Engliſh money, L7 *. Upon this ſuppoſition, France, for ſupplying her full ſubſiſtence, ſhould receive from its agriculture the yearly value of 2720 millions of livres, unleſs ſupplied by art and induſtry. Of the ſeventeen millions of people, he ſuppoſes twelve millions to reſide in cities and great towns, while the country wants people to till the ground. That this defect is, in part, owing to Cardinal Richlieu's ſyſtem in uniting the ſupreme authority in one ſingle point, the king: whereas, before, France was divided into many ſovereignties, under particular lords, which kept the people at a greater diſtance from each other. But now men crowd to court, from whence flow all favours. Another cauſe is the unequal diſtribution of lands; for were all the lands of France equally divided, there would be nine acres and an half for each perſon.

This eſſay is rather a curious and fanciful piece of ſpeculation, than a ſcheme entirely reducible to practice; yet ſundry uſeful inferences may be drawn, by ſtateſmen, &c. from ſuch politico-arithmetical eſſays.

This year, by the diligent and provident application of his Britannic majeſty and his miniſters; the good fortune of the nation, in its American provinces, began to be conſpicuous againſt France:

By reducing the town and fort of Louiſbourg, with the iſles of Cape-Breton and St. John; whereby we were once more put in poſſeſſion of

* Whether he borrowed this computation from our Engliſh political writers, or not, it exactly correſponds with them in this reſpect. *A.*

the key to the trade, navigation, and fiſhery, of North-America. And without that key conſtantly remaining in our hands, or at leaſt its not remaining in the poſſeſſion of any other power, and moſt eſpecially of France, neither our continental colonies, nor our Newfoundland and New-England fiſheries, can ever long remain ſafe and proſperous.

And to add to our good fortune, the forces in the province of New-York razed the French fortreſs of Frontenac on lake Ontario, as alſo Fort du Queſne on the river Ohio, which the French had taken from us two years before, which later fort has been rebuilt by us, by the new name of Pittſburg. Both theſe fortreſſes were perfidiouſly built by the French, through our own ſupineneſs, on the territory of our province of New-York, and in time of peace.

Laſtly, to crown the glory and felicity of this year, and juſt at the very cloſe of it, a ſquadron of our navy, with ſome land forces on board, reduced the iſland of Goree, lying near the mouth of the river Senegal; we having ſome months before alſo taken from France their forts in that river, to which Goree was deemed a protection and ſecurity. By theſe two laſt conqueſts we have acquired a new and very conſiderable branch of commerce in poſſeſſing the entire trade for gum ſenega, or ſenegal, before ſolely enjoyed by the French on that river and coaſt, a drug extremely uſeful and neceſſary in our ſilk manufactures, &c. there are alſo ſundry other uſeful drugs to be had there, as well as gold duſt; and probably alſo this conqueſt will prove an addition to our ſlave trade.

Proviſions ſtill continuing dear, an act paſſed in the 32d year of King George II, for continuing for a farther time the prohibition of the exportation of corn, malt, meal, flour, bread, biſcuit, and ſtarch; and alſo to continue the prohibition of diſtilling low wines and ſpirits from wheat, barley, malt, or any other grain, meal, or flour, as alſo from bran.

Yet, by a ſubſequent act of the ſame ſeſſion of parliament, by reaſon of a better crop of corn, &c. the prohibition of the exportation of corn, &c. and of the payment of any bounty on exportation thereof, were to ceaſe after lady-day 1759.

By another ſtatute of that ſeſſion, the free importation of all ſorts of live cattle from Ireland to Great Britain was permitted for the ſpace of five years, from the 1ſt of May 1759, exempted from the payment of all ſubſidies, cuſtoms, &c.

And by the very next ſtatute it was enacted, that the duties payable upon tallow imported from Ireland ſhould be diſcontinued, from the 1ſt of May 1759 for the ſpace of five years; its preamble importing, that it may tend to the eaſe of the public and advantage of the revenue, by reducing the high price, and encouraging the conſumption, of candles in this kingdom.

By an act [32 *Geo. II*] for applying a ſum of money granted in

this ſeſſion of parliament towards carrying on the works for fortifying and ſecuring the harbour of Milford in Pembrokeſhire, a ſecond ſum of L10,000 was granted for farther carrying on the ſame.

The acts of the 18th and 21ſt years of King George II, for prohibiting the wearing and importation of cambrics and French lawns, not having proved effectual for preventing the fraudulent importation thereof; it was now enacted, that, from the 1ſt of Auguſt 1759, none ſuch ſhould be imported, unleſs packed in bales, caſes, or boxes, covered with ſack-cloth or canvas, containing each one hundred whole pieces; otherwiſe to be forfeited. Cambrics or French lawns ſhould be imported for exportation only, to be lodged in the king's warehouſes, and not to be delivered out but under the like ſecurity and reſtrictions as prohibited Eaſt-India goods. And no cuſtoms or duties whatever ſhould be paid or ſecured thereon, other than half the old ſubſidy, which is to remain by law, after the goods are exported again, &c.

The importation of woollen broad cloth, of the manufacture of France, into any ports of the Levant ſeas on behalf of Britiſh ſubjects, being not only a manifeſt diſcouragement and prejudice to the woollen manufactures of Great Britain, but alſo a means of affording relief to the enemy, an act was paſſed for preventing their importation into the ports of the Levant ſea on behalf of Britiſh ſubjects; and for more effectually preventing the illegal importation of raw ſilk and mohair-yarn into this kingdom.

'I) No ſuch woollen goods of French manufacture ſhall be ſo imported within the limits of the charter of the Engliſh Turkey or Levant company, on account of any Britiſh ſubject.

'II) Nor ſhall any woollen broad cloth, or other Britiſh woollen goods, be imported to any place within the limits of the Turkey company's charter, except directly from this kingdom, on account of any Britiſh ſubject, unleſs the importer ſhall produce a certificate to the Britiſh ambaſſador, or the conſul, vice-conſul, or other proper officer appointed by the Levant or Turkey company, at the port where ſuch goods ſhall be imported, upon oath from the exporter or ſhipper at the laſt place of exportation, that the ſame were brought or received from Great Britain. In which certificate ſhall be the name of the ſhip and of the maſter, as well as the time when imported; alſo the bill of lading from Great Britain, otherwiſe to be deemed French, and to be accordingly confiſcated.

'III) All Britiſh merchants in Turkey ſhall, before exporting any goods from thence, make oath before the Britiſh ambaſſador, or conſul, &c. that the ſame were not purchaſed with the produce of French woollen goods; and the importer thereof into Great Britain ſhall there alſo make the like oath.'

This act was occaſioned by diſcoveries very lately made of Britiſh

ſubjects fraudulently ſhipping from Leghorn quantities of French woollen cloths for Turkey under the denomination of Engliſh, to the great detriment of the Britiſh woollen manufactures.

By the ſame act alſo proviſion was made againſt another fraudulent practice, viz. whereas the woollen manufactures of France are of late years ſent to Turkey in great quantities; and the French, in return thereof, bring back raw ſilk and other commodities to Marſeilles and other ports, which have afterward been carried thence into Italy, from whence they were afterward ſhipped for Great Britain in Engliſh ſhips, greatly to the diſcouragement of the Britiſh woollen manufactures and to the advancement of thoſe of France; meaſures were therefor hereby laid down for preventing both theſe abuſes. But this act was to continue in force during the war with France, and no longer.

There being an unuſual ſcarcity of gold and ſilver at this time in England, partly occaſioned by much money being carried out of the nation on account of our expenſive wars in Germany and America, &c. and partly by the large demand for the current ſervice of the year 1759; the bank of England, for the better accommodation of the public in their receipts and payments, in April 1759 iſſued caſh-notes for L15 and for L10, which have proved very convenient for payments. Poſſibly, that bank, without any great inconveniency to themſelves, and with conſiderable conveniency to the public, (more eſpecially in the country, now that the forging or altering them is rendered ſo difficult, if not quite impoſſible) might iſſue notes as low as L5; but lower than that ſum would probably be attended with real inconveniences, in a country of ſo extenſive an inland commerce: though, as we have elſewhere obſerved, notes of the two incorporated Edinburgh banks, even ſo low as twenty ſhillings ſterling, are circulated all over that country, and prove extremely uſeful in fairs, and country places.

In the month of May the fertile French Weſt-India iſland of Guadaloupe, after having held out ever ſince February againſt a Britiſh ſea and land force, ſurrendered to our troops by capitulation. It is by ſome computed to produce no leſs than 40,000 hogſheads of ſugar, one year with another; but this is ſince known to be exaggerated.

In that ſame month the foreign newſpapers acquainted the public, that the king of Denmark, having ordered an account to be taken of the number of men, women, and children, throughout all his dominions of Denmark, Norway, Holſtein, the iſlands in the Baltic, and the counties of Oldenburgh and Delmenhorſt in Weſtphalia; they amounted to 2,444,000 ſouls. It does not thereby appear, that his Daniſh majeſty's ſubjects in Iceland are included in this cenſus; though, conſidering the barrenneſs of that iſland and the cold climate, they can be but few in number.

We had public advices this year from Charleſtown in South-Carolina,

of a very hopeful proſpect of the progreſs and increaſe of the production of raw ſilk there, and in the adjoining province of Georgia, viz. in the year 1757, 1052 pound weight of raw-ſilk balls were received at the filature in Georgia: and the next year produced no leſs than 7040 pound weight thereof. And in this year there has been received at Savannah, the capital of Georgia, conſiderably above 10,000 pound weight of raw ſilk, though the ſeaſon has not been favourable. This great increaſe of that rich, new, and valuable production in thoſe provinces is owing to the increaſed number of hands in raiſing the ſame *.

We cannot more emphatically deſcribe the triumphs or glories of the Britiſh monarchy during this year, than by tranſcribing part of the congratulatory addreſs of the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons, of the city of London, preſented to his majeſty on the 20th of October 1759, viz. they humbly beſeech his majeſty to accept of their moſt humble, but warmeſt, congratulations, upon the rapid and uninterrupted ſeries of victories and ſucceſſes, which, under the divine bleſſing, have attended his arms both by ſea and land, within the compaſs of this diſtinguiſhed and ever-memorable year. 'The reduction of Fort Du Queſne on 'the Ohio; of the iſland of Goree in Africa; and of Guadaloupe, with 'its dependencies, in the Weſt-Indies: the repulſe and defeat of the 'whole French army, by a handful of infantry, in the plains of Min-'den; the taking of Niagara, Ticonderoga, and Crown-point; the 'naval victory off Cape-Lagos; the advantages gained over the French 'nation in the Eaſt-Indies; and, above all, the conqueſt of Quebec, 'the capital of the French empire in North-America, in a manner ſo 'glorious to your majeſty's arms, againſt every advantage of ſituation 'and ſuperior numbers, are ſuch events as will forever render your 'majeſty's auſpicious reign the favourite æra in the hiſtory of Great 'Britain: meaſures of ſuch national concern, ſo invariably purſued, 'and acquiſitions of ſo much conſequence to the power and trade of 'Great Britain, are the nobleſt proofs of your majeſty's paternal affec-'tion and regard for the true intereſt of your kingdoms, and reflect 'honour upon thoſe whom your majeſty has been pleaſed to admit in-'to your councils, or to intruſt with the conduct of your fleets and 'armies; theſe will ever command the lives and fortunes of a free and 'grateful people, in defence of your majeſty's ſacred perſon and royal 'family, againſt the attempts of all your enemies,' &c.

In the ſpring of the year 1758 the houſe of commons had appointed a committe to conſider of reducing the weights, as alſo the meaſures of length and of capacity, to a perfect exactneſs and uniformity throughout

* As the quantities of ſilk produced in Georgia, ever in later years, are known from the governor's reports to be much ſmaller, than what are here ſtated, there is reaſon to conclude, that theſe advices were either totally erroneous, or that the writer miſtook the weight of the cocoons, (apparently what he calls raw-ſilk balls and raw ſilk) for the weight of merchantable raw ſilk. *M.*

the kingdom of Great Britain. On the 2d of June, in the ſame year, that committee made a report of their progreſs; and in the following ſeſſion, on the 1ſt of December 1758, a freſh committee was appointed for the ſame purpoſe, who took very great pains in enquiring into the original ſtandards of weights and meaſures, and into the moſt effectual means for aſcertaining and enforcing uniform and certain ſtandards thereof, as appears by their report of the 11th and 12th of April 1759; which report was approved of by the houſe, and was printed and publiſhed by their order. Yet, it is much to be regretted, that hitherto nothing farther has been done therein, conſidering how requiſite, and even neceſſary, ſuch a regulation has been long thought to be, by all perſons who obſerve the uncertainty and confuſion in buying and ſelling all meaſurable commodities, as corn, wool, &c. and the frauds committed, more eſpecially among the lower people in the retail way of buſineſs. It is, therefor, to be hoped, that the legiſlature, in peaceable times, will find leaſure to re-conſider this affair, which, though doubtleſs attended with difficulty, will, when effectually regulated, redound very much to the credit of the legiſlature, and to the benefit of the public.

Since our laſt account of the increaſe of the linen manufacture in Scotland in the year 1757, we have the following moſt promiſing accounts of the quantity thereof made and ſtamped for ſale, viz.

	Yards.	Value.
1758 -	10,624,435	L424,141 : 10 : 7
1759 -	10,830,707	451,390 : 17 : 3

Thus, from the year 1728, the quantity has been gradually increaſing from three millions of yards, to almoſt eleven millions.

We had the following account of the Dutch whale fiſhery in the year 1759, viz. that 133 ſhips brought home the produce of 435 whales: which may be deemed a good year for that fiſhery; being ſomewhat above $3\frac{1}{4}$ whales for each ſhip.

But the Hamburghers were not ſo fortunate, who in 16 ſhips brought home but $18\frac{1}{2}$ whales.

Ships arriving at, and departing from, the ports following, in the courſe of the year 1759, viz.

At Cadiz 602 ſhips, viz. 114 Engliſh; 155 Dutch; 195 Spaniſh; 19 French; 23 Portugueſe; 17 Swediſh; 24 Daniſh; 13 Genoeſe; 16 Imperial; 2 Venetian; 7 Neapolitan; 13 Raguſan, and 7 Malteſe. This much ſmaller number than uſual (eſpecially of Engliſh) is owing to the preſent war.

At Dantzick, 626 ſhips arrived.

At Koningſberg (the capital of Pruſſia) 820 ſhips arrived, and 758 ſailed.

At Riga 671 ſhips arrived, and 669 ſailed.

From the Dutch newſpapers we learned, that during the year 1759, there paſſed through the Sound, into the Baltic ſea, 3289 ſhips of different nations; and 3568 ſhips repaſſed the ſame. Now, as by far the moſt of the 2117 ſhips, ſaid to be arrived at the above-named three cities in the Baltic, muſt have been part of thoſe 3289 ſhips, the remaining 1172 ſhips muſt have been moſtly bound for Copenhagen, Lubeck, Stetin, Stockholm, and Peterſburgh, and probably moſt of them to Peterſburgh, the other ports in the Baltic, (as Roſtock, Wiſmar, Revel, Narva, &c.) being much leſs conſiderable in commerce. This, though but a ſhort, and, in ſome ſenſe, but a conjectural view of the navigation and trade to the Baltic, may, however, in ſome degree, enable us to form an adequate idea of it.

At Venice, in the year 1759, there arrived 1781 ſhips and veſſels, of various kinds and ſizes.

And, in the courſe of that year, there were born in the city of Venice 5172 children, and there died 6852 perſons, which number being multiplied by 30, the uſual computation of perſons, of whom one dies annually in great and populous cities, will give 205,560 for the number of ſouls remaining alive in Venice.

1760.—A cenſus of the people living in Rome at eaſter in this year was taken, whereby it appeared, that they amounted to 155,184 inhabitants, viz.

Secular prieſts, - -	2827
Monks, - - -	3847
Nuns, - - -	1910
Students, - -	7065
Poor in alms-houſes, - -	1470
Negroes, - - -	7
Perſons not profeſſing the catholic religion, -	52
	11,178
The remaining inhabitants, being laity,	144,006
Total, -	155,184 perſons.

Which computation nearly agrees with Keyſler's.

By a farther account, there were born in Rome, between eaſter 1759 and eaſter 1760, 5318 children; and there died there 7181 perſons: which laſt number multiplied by 30 gives the whole number of its inhabitants, viz. 215,430 perſons.

Yet, on account of above 11,000 perſons grown up profeſſing celibacy, if the number dying yearly be multiplied by 22 it will come nearer the truth, or 157,982, beſides thoſe of the Jewiſh nation.

But this laſt calculation comprehended not only the 81 pariſhes within

the walls of that city, but likewiſe a circular diſtrict of five or ſix miles without the city; where there are vineyards, ſcattered houſes, &c.

A judicious pamphlet appeared in print in the month of April this year, entitled, the Intereſt of Great Britain conſidered, with regard to her colonies, &c. tending to ſhew the abſolute expediency of retaining the entire country of Canada, as the only ſolid ſafety and ſecurity of our continental colonies. Without preſuming to anticipate what our governors ſhall determine therein in a future treaty, we ſhall here only tranſcribe from this very able author his account of the trade of our northern colonies, compared with that of our Weſt-India iſlands, taken from the following authentic accounts, laid before the board of trade and plantations, viz.

From 1744 to 1748, incluſive, exported

To the northern colonies from Britain,		To the Weſt-India iſlands, from Britain,
1744 -	L640,000 -	- L796,000
1745 -	534,000 -	- 503,000
1746 -	754,000 -	- 472,000
1747 -	726,000 -	- 856,000
1748 -	830,000 -	- 734,000
Total	3,484,000 -	- 3,361,000
		Difference 123,000
From 1754 to 1758, viz.		
1754 -	1,246,000 -	- 685,000
1755 -	1,177,000 -	- 694,000
1756 -	1,428,000 -	- 733,000
1757 -	1,727,000 -	- 776,000
1758 -	1,832,000 -	- 877,000
Total	L7,410,000 -	- 3,765,000
		Difference L3,645,000 in favour of our northern colonies.

The odd ſums under L1000 are omitted, as too minute in this account.

This author obſerves, that the trade to our continental colonies in America is not only greater than that to our Weſt-India colonies, but is alſo annually increaſing with the increaſe of their people, and even in a greater proportion, as the people increaſe in wealth, and in their ability of ſpending, as well as in numbers. But he adds, what to us appears at leaſt ſomewhat improbable, that the number of our people in the northern colonies have been obſerved to double in about 25 years, excluſive of the acceſſion of ſtrangers; for which he alſo appeals to the accounts ſent over to the board of trade.

The vaſt annual increaſe of our exports to the continental colonies in the laſt five years may probably be in part owing to the money remitted from hence in thoſe years for the expenſe of our war againſt the French in Canada, as well as to the great increaſe of thoſe colonies.

He alleges, that our exports to the ſingle province of Pennſylvania, have, in the laſt twenty-eight years, increaſed nearly in the proportion of 17 to 1.

With reſpect to the trite objection, that the growth of our continental colonies may render them dangerous, in reſpect of the difficulty of retaining them in due ſubjection to the Britiſh empire; he (and we conceive every other judicious perſon) thinks it ſcarcely merits an anſwer, as we have fourteen ſeparate governments there; having not only different governors, and different conſtitutions, but likewiſe different intereſts, and in ſome of them different religious perſuaſions: and their jealouſy of each other is already ſo great, that however neceſſary an union of the colonies has long been thought by them all, for their common defence and ſecurity againſt their common enemies, yet they have never been able to effect it, nor even to agree in applying to their mother-country for the eſtabliſhing of ſuch an union.

Too much can ſcarcely be ſaid in praiſe of the vaſt improvements made in our ſiſter kingdom of Ireland, in reſpect to commerce and manufactures, ſince the acceſſion of his majeſty King George II to the throne of theſe kingdoms. An eſſay on the antient and modern ſtate of Ireland, publiſhed (at Dublin and London) in this year 1760, briefly deſcribes the ſame with juſtice and propriety, (p. 49, 50) viz. ‘ in this ‘ reign, and not before, our linen manufacture, in many reſpects one of ‘ the moſt profitable branches of our national commerce, has received ‘ all the encouragement from royal bounty, and parliamentary ſanction, ‘ that could be reaſonably hoped for.

‘ Perſons of the higheſt rank, dignity, and fortune, were appointed ‘ truſtees for the propagation, encouragement, and diffuſion of this be- ‘ neficial trade throughout the reſpective provinces.

‘ The linen-hall was erected in Dublin, under as juſt and nice regu- ‘ lations as any commercial houſe in Europe.

‘ The north of Ireland began to wear an aſpect entirely new; and ‘ from being (through want of induſtry, buſineſs, and tillage) the almoſt ‘ exhauſted nurſery of our American plantations, ſoon became a popu- ‘ lous ſcene of improvement, traffic, wealth, and plenty; and is at this ‘ day a well planted diſtrict, conſiderable for numbers of well-affected, ‘ uſeful, and induſtrious ſubjects.’

‘ We nowhere (abſtracted from our own country) meet with ſuch a ‘ ſet of pious patriots (in the ever-honourable Dublin ſociety) from ‘ their private funds adorning their country in general, in every degree ‘ and branch of induſtry and improvement; and inſpired with ſenti-

'ments truely public and ſocial, munificently rewarding their country-
'men, of whatſoever denomination, without favour or diſtinction, for
'meliorating their proper eſtates or farms; for excelling in any pro-
'duction of nature or art; for any diſcovery or invention uſeful to
'mankind.' This ſociety, which, for ſome years before, was merely a voluntary one, was incorporated in the year 1750*.

Page 60th, 'The trade of Ireland, however in former times miſerably
'reſtrained and limited, hath in this happy reign received conſiderable
'enlargements; ſuch as, the opening of ſeveral wool-ports: the bounty
'on Iriſh linens, now our ſtaple commodity, imported into Great Bri-
'tain, and the immunity lately granted of importing thither beef, but-
'ter, tallow, candles, pork, hides, live cattle, &c. a privilege that, in its
'conſequences, muſt prove of ſignal advantage to both nations; to this
'eſpecially, as we ſhall hereby be enabled, upon any occaſional emer-
'gency, to ſupply our protecting friends, and proportionably ſtint the
'hands of our enemies, who (by the profuſion of wines and ſpiritous
'liquors, annually exported from France to Ireland, in exchange for
'our beef, butter, &c. to paſs over the glut of teas and ſpirits, &c.
'ſmuggled thence by the weſtern runners) have conſtantly the balance
'on their ſide: our exports, with thoſe already mentioned, conſiſt in a
'few cheeſes, ſalmon, and kelp; but as our linens are, without queſtion,
'become the vital ſpring of Iriſh commerce, it is matter of great con-
'cern, and equal ſurpriſe, that the other provinces do not more uni-
'verſally and effectually follow the lucrative example of the north, ſince
'it is evident that nothing but equal induſtry can be wanting to render
'them equally flouriſhing; yet the over-growth of graziers and ſtock-
'maſters, is the ſtrongeſt indication that can be of national waſte and
'decay in reſpect of inhabitants. Would not a foreigner ſtart, even at
'our humanity, as well as at our want of national wiſdom and econo-
'my, on ſeeing the beſt arable grounds in the kingdom, in immenſe
'tracts, wantonly enjoyed by the cattle of a few petulant individuals,
'and at the ſame juncture our highways and ſtreets crowded with ſholes
'of mendicant fellow-creatures, reduced, through want of proper ſuſte-
'nance, to the utmoſt diſtreſs. Would not a Frenchman give a ſhrug
'extraordinary, at finding in every little inn, Bourdeaux claret, and
'Nantz brandy, though, in all likelihood, not a morſel of Iriſh bread.
'It is much to be hoped, that when the ſpirit of tillage ſhall become
'more general, we may have a ſufficient plenty of malt liquors of our
'own native produce. Gardening is of late years ſo vaſtly improved
'amongſt us, that we now have many curious plants, fruits, and flowers,
'never heard of in former times. Yet many intelligent perſons of
'all ranks complain much of the want of ſome eſtabliſhment in the

* Our author ſeems to have forgotten the ſplendid, numerous, and increaſing ſociety of the ſame nature, eſtabliſhed in London in the year 1754, and alſo another at Edinburgh. *A.*

'way of a national bank, to ſecure popular credit and the kingdom 'from the various alarming ſhocks it is ſo frequently incident to, on ac-'count of the failure of particular or private banks.'

From Ireland we have farther received the following diſagreeable accounts, from a judicious private hand, viz.

Since the year 1757 the exportation of their linens has been gradually leſſening, and the following is its ſtate for two years paſt, viz.

Linens of all ſorts exported for one year, ended at lady-day 1759,
14,093,431 yards, which valued, at a medium, at 16*d* per yard, comes to - L939,562 1 4

Ditto in 1760, 13,375,456¼ yards, valued at ditto per yard, - 891,697 1 8

717,974¾ yards, decreaſed. Valued at ditto, - L47,864 19 8

Poſſibly the annual increaſe of the linen manufacture of Scotland may partly, if not entirely, account for this decreaſe in Ireland.

The quantity of Iriſh linens ſo exported is excluſive of what is conſumed within that kingdom. And the quantity of linen yarn annually exported to Great Britain is nearly equal in value to the yarn that is wove into the exported linens.

The ſupplies, granted by the parliament of Great Britain for the ſervice of the year 1760, amounted to the vaſt ſum of L15,503,564 : 15 : 9½.

In the former part of this year (1760) the Dutch Eaſt-India company divided 15 per cent among their proprietors, for the preceding year's dividend. And as that company's capital ſtock uſually ſold at from 397 per cent to 410, we will ſuppoſe 400 per cent to be the mean price, for the ſake of a round number, then the purchaſers at this time made 3¾ per cent of their money, which, conſidering the fluctuating ſtate of ſuch trading ſocieties, proceeding from various loſſes, &c. is far from an alluring dividend.

In this ſame year we were informed, that the Dutch Weſt-India company divided 2½ per cent for one year paſt, their long decayed ſtock uſually ſelling at from 32 to 33 per cent. Theſe dividends being duely conſidered, we are not to think it ſtrange that the monied people of Holland are ſo deeply concerned in the Britiſh national funds, even though at the low intereſt of 3 per cent, as the intereſt is ſo certainly and punctually paid, without any riſk or expenſe, except the fluctuation of the market prices of the funds, and the commiſſion to their agents here *.

The high prices of ſpiritous liquors manufactured in Great Britain, wiſely occaſioned by ſome late ſtatutes, having greatly leſſened the con-

* According to an account of the prices during nine months of this year, which I have received from Holland, Eaſt-India ſtock was from 382 to 413; and Weſt-India ſtock from 29½ to 33½. *A.*

ſumption thereof, among the commonalty, and thereby contributed very much to their health, ſobriety, and induſtry; for the prevention of the return of former miſchiefs, an act of parliament paſſed in this 33d year of King George II, for preventing the exceſſive uſe of ſpiritous liquors, by laying additional duties thereon; and for encouraging the exportation of Britiſh-made ſpirits, &c. which law has further contributed to the ſame ſalutary end.

Sundry other good laws were made in this ſeſſion of parliament, for the eaſe of commerce, and conveniency and ſafety of the people; ſuch as that for extending the time limited for the importation of ſalted beef, pork, and butter, from Ireland; for removing the gunpowder magazine from Greenwich, where it was ſo dangerous, to Purfleet, a place of greater ſafety; enlarging and improving the fortifications and docks of Portſmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth; for preventing frauds relating to the cuſtoms, and granting liberty to export rice from Carolina, directly to any part of Europe ſouth of Cape Finiſterre, in ſhips navigated according to law; and that for widening certain ſtreets, lanes, &c. in the city of London, and for opening certain new ſtreets, and clearing away ſundry nuiſances therein, for the conveniency of carriages and paſſengers, inſomuch that this city already begins to wear a new and more elegant face, by its old and narrow gates being removed, new and airy openings made, and many more intended; whereby, it is to be hoped, the moſt wealthy citizens will no longer have reaſon to remove into the weſtern ſuburbs, for free and freſh air, but will end their days with comfort and ſatisfaction, in the places where Providence had bleſſed their induſtry with plentiful fortunes.

This year the king eſtabliſhed a corporation at Fort-Marlborough, near Bencoolen in the iſland of Sumatra in the Eaſt-Indies, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Fort-Marlborough. But the place was ſurpriſed by the French in the ſame year.

On the 8th of September 1760 the town of Montreal, together with the reſt of Canada, was ſurrendered by the French governor, Vaudreuille, to General Amherſt, commander in chief of the Britiſh forces.

From this acquiſition, how vaſt an addition of territory has accrued to the Britiſh empire in America, how much greater ſafety and ſecurity have our antient colonies hereby obtained, by removing from behind them ſo enterpriſing, reſtleſs, and ſhameleſsly perfidious, a nation? and, which is of much more importance to us, hereby alſo we become poſſeſſed of the whole of the fur and peltry trade of that continent, in exchange for our coarſe woollen and other manufactures, iron tools of many kinds, kitchen and houſehold furniture, with other copper and braſs utenſils, lead ſhot, gunpowder, firelocks, ſwords, &c. but we wiſh we could not add rum, in great quantities, ſo greatly debauching the morals, &c. of the Indians. How great an increaſe of our national

commerce, then, muſt this acquiſition be, even in our days? and how much more will it probably be in future ages, when our Indian traders, and wood-rangers, will undoubtedly diſcover many new nations to traffic with, very far back in that vaſt country, until they at length, and it is to be hoped very ſoon, ſhall open a way to the ocean of Japan and China? a diſcovery which, in the womb of Providence, may, and probably will, be attended with great, and perhaps very ſurpriſing, alterations in the courſe of commerce; a diſcovery too, which will infallibly enable us to determine the ſo long controverted, and ſo frequently in vain attempted, point of a north-weſt paſſage by ſea to the eaſtern parts of Aſia, and the extreme weſtern parts of America, by a ſhorter and ſafer courſe than from Hudſon's bay, without any future attempts from ſo miſerable a ſhore, where it is at preſent ſo unlikely ever to be found. And well worth any reaſonable expenſe it will be found to be, to ſet about ſuch a weſtern journey, with Indian guides, as ſoon as poſſible.

The north end of Sweden, known by the name of Lapmark, adjoining to Lapland, has very lately been ſo much improved and civilized, that in the diet of Sweden, at the cloſe of this year 1760, the ſpeaker of the houſe of peaſants, or farmers, tells their king, in expreſſion of their gratitude for his goodneſs, and care of that northern part of his dominions, 'that thoſe parts which have hitherto remained wild, uncultivated, and moſtly uninhabited, wear at preſent a quite different face, being now covered with dwellings, and their lands cultivated; and, for the firſt time, ſays he, ſince the creation of the world, this new people appear in the diet with us, by their repreſentatives. How would it rejoice our hearts to ſee our dear country extend its bounds more and more, by the draining of moraſſes, and other lands covered with water, and by the peopling of deſarts.'

The linen manufacture of Scotland continues to increaſe rapidly, as appears by the returns of linen ſtamped for ſale, beſides which a very large quantity is made by families for their own uſe.

	Yards.	Value.
In the year 1759 there were ſtamped	10,830,707.	L451,390 17 3
1760, - -	11,747,728.	523,153 10 4
Increaſed in the year 1760, -	917,021.	71,762 13 1

The following is a brief ſketch of the preſent ſtate of the moſt populous cities and towns of the kingdom, beſides London, the various improvements of which have been more particularly noted in the progreſs of our work.

Briſtol is univerſally allowed to be the largeſt city in Great Britain, next after London. The anonymous author of England's gazetteer, publiſhed in 1751, makes it to contain 13,000 houſes, and 95,000 ſouls.

When the author of this work was there in the year 1758, he perambulated it for two days, and from a near examination of the number of

houſes on new foundations, and even of entire new ſtreets, erected ſince the year 1751, he imagined he could not heſitate in concluding it to contain about 100,000 ſouls, or to be about the magnitude of that part of London, which is contained within the antient walls. It is confeſſed, that London, within that limited compaſs, appears to be more populous, or to have more people appearing abroad in the ſtreets; but that we apprehend to be occaſioned chiefly by its communication with its vaſtly-extended ſuburbs, its immenſe commerce and ſhipping, the greater reſort of foreigners, and the near reſidence of the court, nobility, gentry, and lawyers; whereas, in the ſtreets of Briſtol, which are more remote from the harbour and ſhipping, the inhabitants are moſtly either private families, living on their means, or elſe manufacturers and workmen of many various kinds, employed moſtly within doors. We have met with ſome Iriſh gentlemen who will needs have the city of Dublin to be larger than Briſtol, for which they allege the like reaſon, as abovementioned, for London within the walls; and to which, we conceive, it may be anſwered, that Dublin, being the reſidence of the chief governors, of all the public officers, of the guards, the nobility and gentry with their numerous retinues, and of the courts of juſtice, as well as of the parliaments, theſe may occaſion a greater appearance of people in its ſtreets, without her being really larger than Briſtol.

Edinburgh, being the uſual reſidence of the courts of juſtice of Scotland, of the police, the boards of cuſtoms and exciſe, of lawyers attending on pleas, beſides merchants, manufacturers, &c. and of a learned and well-frequented univerſity; with all its ſuburbs, and its port of Leith, may fairly be allowed to contain at leaſt 60,000 inhabitants.

Norwich is by many thought to contain upwards of 7500 houſes, many of which are crowded with inmates of manufacturing people; if therefor eight people be allowed on an average to each houſe, it may contain 60,000 ſouls. Or if, according to others, there be only 7000 houſes, and that ſeven perſons to each houſe be ſufficient, then 49,000 may be nearly the number of its inhabitants. But we conjecture the firſt computation is neareſt to the truth. We may here, by way of corollary, remark, that Norwich has, for many ages, and more eſpecially for two centuries paſt, been very eminent for the nobleſt manufacture of the fineſt ſtuffs in the world, of various kinds, with which it not only ſupplies our own people in immenſe quantities, but likewiſe moſt foreign nations, and alſo our American colonies, whereby the manufacturers accumulate much wealth.

Mancheſter in Lancaſhire, merely as a town, though without being ſo much as a corporation, is probably next in number of inhabitants, and abounds ſo much with great variety of excellent manufactures of cottons, tickens, &c. as to employ many thouſands of journeymen-weavers, beſide other workmen, women, and children, conſtantly em-

ployed, both for the foreign and home demand of thoſe goods: inſo-much that Mancheſter is ſwelled to the bulk of a great city, being ſuppoſed to contain from 40 to 45,000 people.

Liverpool, in the ſame county, in point of a vaſtly-extended foreign commerce and mercantile ſhipping, is long ſince become undoubtedly the greateſt and moſt opulent ſea-port in the kingdom, next to London and Briſtol, employing about 300 ſail of ſhips moſtly in the Guinea and American trades, and is now ſaid to be thrice as large and populous as it was at the acceſſion of William and Mary to the crown. In ſhort, this proſperous town extends its commerce to all parts not occupied by excluſive companies, and is thought to contain at this time from 30 to 35,000 inhabitants.

Birmingham, in Warwickſhire, though ſtill alſo, like Mancheſter, an unincorporated town, has, through the general increaſe of our national commerce, gradually grown up, more eſpecially of later years, to the magnitude of a conſiderable city, by means of its vaſt, numerous, and moſt ingenious, manufactures of iron, ſteel, and braſs, or hard-ware, in an almoſt-endleſs variety, ſuch as enamelled and poliſhed ſteel ſnuff-boxes, keys, locks, hinges, buckles, buttons, &c. not only for ſupplying ourſelves and our own foreign plantations, but almoſt all the reſt of the world therewith. This very buſy place is reckoned to contain at leaſt 30,000 inhabitants.

In much the ſame ſort of employment has the populous town of Sheffield been more or leſs famous for above four centuries paſt, partly by means of the iron ſtone in its vicinity, but of late much more by the general increaſe of the nation's foreign commerce. It has been peculiarly famous for the manufacture of knives and other cutlery-ware, as far back as the poet Chaucer's time, (in the reign of King Edward III) their knives being by that poet, as ſtill by the common people farther north, called whittles. There are above 600 maſter-cutlers there, who are a corporation, by the name of the cutlers of Hallamſhire, of which diſtrict in Yorkſhire, Sheffield is the principal town. It is reputed to be two miles in length and one in breadth, and to employ about 40,000 perſons in the iron manufactures, though not all living within the town. They have likewiſe a conſiderable trade in this town for corn and alum; and are more particularly noted for making the beſt files and other iron tools for various handicrafts. Yet ſo little curious are its inhabitants in ſpeculative reſearches, that we have not been able to learn with any preciſion the probable number of the inhabitants of ſo populous a town, as diſtinguiſhed from the reſt of Hallamſhire, though, from ſundry circumſtances, they may very probably be conſiderably above 20,000.

Newcaſtle upon Tine has been eminent for ſeveral centuries paſt for its almoſt inexhauſtible ſtaple of pit-coal, called at London ſea-coal, be-

cauſe carried thither only by ſea. It ſupplies not only London and many other parts of the kingdom with that moſt neceſſary fuel, but likewiſe ſundry foreign countries, moſtly in its own ſtrong and numerous ſhipping, the loading of which, from the pits to the ſhips at Shields, employs five or ſix thouſand men called keelmen: here is alſo a great manufacture of glaſs bottles, and another of hard-ware or wrought iron of many ſorts. It is alſo noted for its grind-ſtones, of which great quantities are exported beyond ſea. But, beyond all other national benefits, the coal-trade of this town is peculiarly and eminently uſeful on any emergency, for its great number of thorough-bred mariners for manning the navy. It has long been a very populous place, and, including its ſuburbs of Gateſhead and North and South Shields, may probably contain near 40,000 inhabitants.

Glaſgow is a beautiful and increaſing city of Scotland, abounding in many profitable manufactures, more eſpecially of the linen kind, in great variety and beauty. It has alſo a great number of good ſhipping trading (from its port called Port-Glaſgow, and from Greenock), as well to our Weſt-India ſugar iſles, as alſo to our continental colonies, more eſpecially to our two tobacco provinces: whereby it is now ſaid to be arrived to the magnitude of 26 to 27,000 inhabitants, who are generally reckoned eminent for induſtry and a prudent economy.

Theſe, with London, we apprehend to be all the cities and towns of Great Britain, which contain upward of 20,000 inhabitants within their reſpective liberties, boundaries, and precincts. Yet there are many other cities and towns of England which nearly approach to that number.

From our correſpondent in Ireland, we have the following account of the preſent ſtate of the principal cities in that iſland.

Dublin, in the year 1760, contained 13,461 houſes, which number, allowing 7 perſons to each houſe (which is probably very near the truth) gives 94,227 people *.

Cork contained 8268, and, by the ſame computation, 57,876 inhabitants. It has long been famous for a vaſt exportation of ſalted beef, pork, and butter, chiefly to our own ſugar colonies. Cheeſe and hides are alſo exported from Cork.

Limerick, on the great river Shannon, conveniently ſituated for the weſtern trades, contained 3640 houſes and 25,480 inhabitants.

* All the mortality-bills of Dublin, which we have ſeen, come ſhort of 2000 perſons yearly, which number multiplied even by 33 (the healthieſt number) gives but 66,000. But there is reaſon to believe that the mortality-bills of Dublin, and of other places alſo, are very defective. *A.*

Waterford, a conſiderable trading port on the eaſt ſide of Ireland, contained 3284 houſes and 22,988 inhabitants *.

* The author of the *New geography of Ireland* (*Dublin* 1752) ſtates the number of houſes in Dublin to be 19,352; Cork 8726; Limerick 3959; and Waterfoord 2637. *A.*

As the subsequent part of Mr. Anderson's 'Historical and chronological work,' which is carried forward to the year 1762, *contains very little commercial information, it was thought proper to conclude it here, and to begin my own continuation with the commencement of the reign of his present Majesty. M.*

ANNALS

OF

COMMERCE,

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND NAVIGATION,

WITH

BRIEF NOTICES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CONNECTED WITH THEM.

PART III,

CONTAINING THE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND OTHER COUNTRIES,
FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE REIGN OF HIS PRESENT MAJESTY,

GEORGE III,

KING OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

TO THE MEETING OF THE UNION PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY 1801;

Composed from Materials of unquestionable Authenticity (mostly unpublished), extracted from the Records of Parliament, the Accounts of the Customhouse, the Mint, the Board of Trade, the Post-Office, the East-India Company, the Bank of England, &c. &c.

BY

DAVID MACPHERSON.

ANNALS

OF

COMMERCE.

A. D. 1760.

GEORGE the Second, king of Great Britain, died on the 25th day of October 1760, and was ſucceeded by his grandſon, George prince of Wales.

In the reign of George II the agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, of Britain were greatly improved. The roads throughout the kingdom were put in a much better condition than they had ever been in before, and the navigation of ſeveral rivers * was improved, whereby various parts of the country were enabled to have a regular and convenient mutual intercourſe; and *internal trade*, an object ſtill more important than foreign trade, was greatly facilitated. Theſe great improvements appear to have been in no degree checked, but rather to have been in a ſtate of progreſſive advancement, during the extenſive war which raged in the laſt years of George II †.

Accounts were received of an alarming inſurrection of the negro ſlaves in the pariſhes of St. Mary's, St. Elizabeth's, and St. Thomas in the eaſt, in Jamaica. Many white people were killed, many plantations laid deſolate by the inſurgents, vaſt numbers of the unhappy negroes were deſtroyed, and that opulent and flouriſhing colony was in imminent danger of total ruin, before the exertions of the military and the militia, with the aſſiſtance of the fleet, were able to quell this deſperate attempt of the wretched ſlaves to recover their liberty.

* The vaſt benefits flowing from the creation (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) of new rivers, or artificial canals, were only beginning to be underſtood as yet in Britain.

† The advancing proſperity of the kingdom in this reign has been clearly and forcibly illuſtrated by Mr. Chalmers, in his *Eſſimate of the comparative ſtrength of Great Britain*, ed. 1794.

To prevent the dreadful alarm, which the news of the inſurrection muſt have excited at home, General Dalling, lieutenant-governor of Jamaica, prudently withheld all communication of the commencement of it from being ſent to Britain, till he was enabled alſo to announce that the danger was over *.

The governors of the Britiſh forts on the coaſt of Africa, belonging to the African company, ſent home heavy complaints of the Dutch governor of Elmina, for forcibly monopolizing the trade with the Portugueſe veſſels upon the coaſt to the weſtward of the river Volta, which the Dutch affirmed they had a right to do by treaty with the Portugueſe. In ſubſequent letters the ſame governors complained of conſtant endeavours and arts practiſed by the Dutch to ſtir up the natives againſt the Britiſh intereſt.

Great efforts had been made, and great ſums had been expended, to collect ſettlers from various parts of Europe and America to cultivate the province of Nova Scotia. But government ſeemed now to be weary of the great demands for the ſupport of that unproductive colony, and reſolved to be more ſparing in their grants for the future. The expenſe of the civil eſtabliſhment for the province in the year 1759, was £11,568 : 2 ; for this year, £11,785 : 6 : 10 ; and the eſtimate for the enſuing year (1761) was made up at £9,095 : 12 : 9, with *perhaps* an allowance of £1000 for contingencies.

A moſt pernicious illegal trade had been for ſome time carried on between the Britiſh colonies in North America and the French ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies, and on the rivers Mobile and Miſſiſippi, under the ſanction of flags of truce, whereby the French were ſupplied with the proviſions and lumber of North America, ſo indiſpenſably neceſſary for carrying on their plantations, and moreover with large ſums in money in payment of their produce and of the manufactures of France, the balance of the trade being greatly in favour of the French.

Such practices being in open contempt of the authority of Great Britain, Mr. Secretary Pitt (afterwards earl of Chatham) had written (23d Auguſt) to the ſeveral governors of North America, directing them to uſe their utmoſt efforts to detect and puniſh all perſons concerned in ſo iniquitous a traffic †.

The vaſt advantages of inland water-carriage began to be conſidered in England in the reigns of Charles I and Charles II ‡, and ſeveral improvements upon the navigation in the natural beds of rivers were attempted during the reigns of theſe two princes. In the ſucceeding

* In November 1760 he wrote, that it was almoſt ſuppreſſed ; and in the beginning of January 1761 he wrote, that the diſturbances were entirely at an end.

† I was credibly informed of at leaſt one inſtance of a man, whoſe official duty it was to prevent illicit trade, being deeply engaged in this ſcandalous commerce.

‡ In the year 1675, an author, who takes only the name of R. S. publiſhed *Avona, or a view of making rivers in this kingdom navigable*.

reigns, though they were not entirely loſt ſight of, they were not much attended to, till the reign of George II. In the year 1755 the commercial and enterpriſing inhabitants of Liverpool began to turn their attention to this moſt important object. For the benefit of an eaſier conveyance of coals from the pits at St. Helen's near Preſcot, they obtained an act of parliament for rendering navigable Sankey brook, which runs near St. Helen's, and falls into the Merſea below Warrington: But when they came to examine the ground more attentively, they found it would be better to make an entire new canal with proper locks, which would be exempted from the inconveniencies of land-floods, &c.; and it was accordingly executed on that more judicious plan, the brook being only uſed to feed the canal, which is twelve miles long, with a fall of ninety feet; and it is, if I miſtake not, the firſt canal with locks that ever was conſtructed in Great Britain. In the ſame year, they employed two ſurveyors to examine the ground for a propoſed junction of the Merſea with the Trent on the oppoſite ſide of the country; a grand idea, which however was not carried into execution till ſeveral years after, as will be obſerved in proper time.

But the firſt important work of this nature in Great Britain was planned and happily accompliſhed by the duke of Bridgewater, who may truely be ſaid to have the real honour, if not of introducing inland navigation, at leaſt of rendering it an object of univerſal attention, which has been attended with the happy effect of diffuſing that moſt capital ſpecies of improvement throughout the whole kingdom. The duke had a large mountain of coal upon his eſtate at Worſley in Lancaſhire, which the great expenſe of carriage to a market rendered an uſeleſs poſſeſſion to him. He therefor conceived the idea of procuring a cheap conveyance by water to the large and populous manufacturing town of Manchester, for which purpoſe he obtained two acts of parliament in the years 1758 and 1759 *. While he was concerting his plan, he perceived, encouraged, and availed himſelf of, the wonderful talents of the uneducated, but heaven-taught engineer, Brindley; by whoſe ingenuity, with the abundant ſupply of materials from his own lands, and a vaſt expenditure of money for labour, he completed a navigable canal of twenty-nine miles in length, with about four feet and a half of depth of water, without any locks; the inequalities of the ground, and the intervention of rivers and public roads, being ſurmounted by ſtupendous mounds of earth; by a tunnel cut through a hill fifty feet under the ſurface, and in ſome places hewed out of the ſolid rock; by aqueduct bridges over the public roads; and by, what even profeſſional men then

* An act had been obtained in the year 1736, for making Worſley brook navigable to its junction with the Irwell by the old method of damming up the water to make levels. But, fortunately for the preſent age, nothing was ever done in it, and room was thereby left for the duke of Bridgewater's grand undertaking.

pronounced impoſſible, an aqueduct bridge over the navigable river Irwell, at the height of thirty-eight feet above its ſurface, which preſented to the wondering ſpectators the new and ſurpriſing ſight of veſſels ſailing aloft in the air, high above other veſſels ſailing below in the river. As the duke's operations were carried forward with great ſpirit during the whole of this year, the public were gratified with the ſight of the firſt boat paſſing along his magnificent aqueduct on the 17th of July 1761; and the ſcoffers, who, in deriſion of this noble effort of Brindley's bold, but unerring, genius, had called it *a caſtle in the air*, felt themſelves aſhamed. The whole work of the canal was executed in a ſtile of ſolidity and grandeur, which might induce an inattentive ſpectator to ſuppoſe that it was made for oſtentation; but a careful inſpection will ſhew, that every part is not only proper but neceſſary; that economy has been happily combined with magnificence; and that the vaſt expenſe of perhaps the greateſt work that ever was undertaken and executed in any part of the world at the charge of one individual, is ſmall, when compared to the extenſive utility of it.

The duke, immediately after the completion of this canal, extended the length and the benefits of his navigation as far as Liverpool; and goods are now carried on his canals between that town and Mancheſter at 6*ſ* a tun inſtead of 12*ſ*, the charge of the former navigation on the Merſea and the Irwell, or 40*ſ*, the price of the land carriage: and, while his ſpirited and patriotic enterpriſe is rewarded by a vaſt revenue ariſing from his water-carriage, and his formerly uſeleſs coal-mine, the ſurrounding country is benefited at leaſt a pound for every ſhilling paid to the duke.

Thus the ſpirited commercial county of Lancaſter appears to have had the glory of producing the firſt canal made in the kingdom in modern times, and upon the modern improved principles; of firſt conceiving the magnificent deſign of a navigable communication between the eaſt and weſt ſides of England through the heart of the country; and of exhibiting the firſt ſpecimen of a canal executed on a grand ſcale. Such is the animating influence of vigorous commerce and manufactures.

The duke of Bridgewater's canal immediately attracted the attention of the public in an extraordinary degree; and the advantages of inland navigation conducted upon improved principles, and alſo the ſuppoſed diſadvantages of it, were the ſubjects of general diſcuſſion.

The enemies of the new mode of conveyance objected, that the facility of canal navigation would greatly diminiſh the numbers of the uſeful and noble breed of draught horſes.—A curious objection, truely, to the abridgement of an expenſe. A part of thoſe horſes will be employed in drawing the veſſels on the canals. A part of them may be employed in drawing ploughs on grounds hitherto kept in graſs for the

uſe of the redundant number of them, or on grounds hitherto uſeleſs for want of manure, in order to raiſe corn, &c. to increaſe the breed of men, whoſe numbers in all countries are exactly in proportion to the means of ſubſiſtence: and men, induſtrious men, not horſes, conſtitute the true riches and ſtrength of a well-regulated nation.

It has alſo been objected, that the increaſe of inland navigation muſt, by its ſuperior cheapneſs, eaſe, and certainty, diminiſh our coaſting trade, and conſequently weaken the navy, the natural and conſtitutional bulwark of Great Britain.—This objection is ſomewhat like the former one: it is regretting the enjoyment of an advantage; and the apprehenſion is apparently unfounded: for, as all the various branches of commerce mutually depend on, and ſupport one another, the extenſion of the inland commerce will not diminiſh, but greatly enlarge, the number of ſhips and ſeamen, eſpecially the later by the acceſſion of vaſt numbers of young men, trained up in the management of ſails and oars, in parts of the country where no ſail nor oar was ever ſeen before the introduction of canals. And experience has actually confirmed this reaſoning, not only in the general increaſe of ſhipping, and conſequently of ſeamen *, but by the certain knowlege, that the interior part of the country has begun to rival the coaſt as a nurſery of ſeamen both for the merchant ſhips and ſhips of war.

Another objection is, that vaſt ſums of money have been ſunk in making canals.—But this is a very frivolous cavil. If an eſtate is productive, the owner will never object to its being too great. And this kind of property has never failed of being advantageous to the public, even in thoſe inſtances where it has not been profitable to the proprietors. But granting the worſt, that the canal is uſeleſs to the public, and conſequently a dead loſs to the proprietors, there is ſtill no national loſs: the money is only transferred from the pockets of the numerous ſubſcribers, who are generally in circumſtances to bear the loſs of the ſums ſubſcribed, into the hands of induſtrious mechanics and labourers, who immediately return it into the general circulation. None of it is either hoarded or ſent out of the country. Many turnpike roads coſt more by the mile than ſome canals do: and as one horſe can draw as great a weight of goods upon a canal, as thirty can draw upon a road, the ſuperior ſerviceableneſs and profit of the canal are obvious.

There is yet another objection to canals, which, though rather too ridiculous to merit notice, has been repeatedly urged, that they deſtroy great quantities of land, which might be better employed in raiſing,

* In the year 1760, juſt before the duke of Bridgewater's firſt canal was finiſhed, the ſhips cleared out of the ports of England were rated to carry 471,241 tuns. In the year 1790, when almoſt all England was interſected by canals, their burthen was 1,379,329 tuns (regular meaſurement), which muſt have required conſiderably more than double the number of ſailors; and there can be no doubt that the inland navigation has contributed its proportion to the great increaſe.

corn *. But the line of a canal occupies but a very ſmall ſpace of ground; and, inſtead of diminiſhing, it greatly increaſes, the quantity of corn land, by conveying manure to render barren land productive. The quantity of corn for the uſe of mankind is moreover increaſed (as already obſerved) by rendering fewer horſes neceſſary in the carrying buſineſs.

It has alſo been ſaid, that the natural navigation of the rivers has been neglected in partiality to theſe newfangled artificial canals.—But, where the navigation of a river is free of obſtructions, it cannot be ſuppoſed, that people are ſo fond of throwing away their money, as to make ſuperfluous canals. And it ought to be remembered, that improvements upon the natural channels of rivers are frequently deſtroyed by heavy land floods, as was the caſe with the rivers Calder, Irwell, Stour, &c. which can do no injury to canals, as they admit no more water in their channels than what is proper and ſerviceable.

But the advantages of navigable canals, beſides thoſe already mentioned in the anſwers to the objections, are great and obvious. They give freſh life to eſtabliſhed manufactures, and they encourage the eſtabliſhment of new ones, by the eaſe of tranſporting the materials of manufacture and proviſions; and thence we ſee new villages ſtart up upon the borders of canals in places formerly condemned to ſterility and ſolitude. They invigorate, and in many inſtances create, internal trade, which, for its extent and value, is an object of ſtill more importance than foreign commerce, and is exempted from the many hardſhips and dangers of a maritime life, and changes of climate. And they greatly promote foreign trade, and conſequently enrich the merchants of the ports where they, or the navigable rivers they are connected with, terminate, by facilitating the exportation of produce from, and the introduction of foreign merchandize into, the interior parts of the country, which are thus placed nearly on a level with the maritime parts; or, in other words, the interior parts become coaſts, and enjoy the accommodations of ſhipping. The price of proviſions is nearly equalized through the whole country; the bleſſings of Providence are more uniformly diſtributed; and the monopoliſt is diſappointed in his ſchemes of iniquity and oppreſſion by the eaſe wherewith proviſions are tranſported from a conſiderable diſtance. The advantages to agriculture, which provides a great part of the materials, and almoſt the whole of the ſubſiſtence, required in carrying on manufactures and commerce, are pre-eminently great. Manure, marl, lime, and all other bulky articles, which could not poſſibly bear the great expenſe of cartage, and alſo corn and other produce, can be carried at a very light expenſe on canals; whereby poor lands are enriched, and barren lands are brought into cultivation,

* I remember ſeeing an eſſay publiſhed only five or ſix years ago, the author of which very ſeriouſly adviſed filling up all the canals, and ſowing corn upon the ground.

to the great emolument of the farmer and landholder, and the general advantage of the community in an augmented ſupply of the neceſſaries of life and materials of manufactures. Coals, (the importance of which to a manufacturing country, few people, not actually concerned in manufactures, are capable of duely appretiating), ſtone, lime, iron-ore, and minerals in general, as well as many other articles of great bulk in proportion to their value, which had hitherto lain uſeleſs to their proprietors by reaſon of the expenſe, and in many caſes impoſſibility, of carriage, are called into life, and rendered a fund of wealth by the vicinity of a canal, which thus gives birth to a trade, whereby, in return, it is maintained. The cheap, certain, and pleaſant, conveyance of travelers by the trackſkuyts in Holland has been admired by all, who have been in that country: and it muſt be owing to the univerſal deſire in this country of flying over the ground with the greateſt poſſible rapidity, that a mode of traveling, ſo exceedingly eaſy to the purſe and the perſon, is ſo little uſed here. Neither ought we entirely to forget among the advantages of canals the pleaſure afforded to the eye and the mind by a beautiful moving landſcape of boats, men, horſes, &c. buſied in procuring ſubſiſtence to themſelves, and in diffuſing opulence and convenience through the country. And, in a word, we have now the experience of about forty years to eſtabliſh as a certain truth, what was long ago ſaid by Doctor Adam Smith, that great maſter of political economy, that *navigable canals are among the greateſt of all improvements* *.

This year a variation was introduced in the mode of river navigation by Mr. Bridge of Tewkſbury in Glouceſter-ſhire. Where a ſtream had many mills upon it, he availed himſelf of the mill-ponds and watercourſes, as parts of a canal already completed. Having adapted to his boats a ſufficient number of frames, each carrying one tun of goods, and having drawn a navigable cut from the ſtream below the mill-dam cloſe to the under ſide of it, he hoiſted up his frames with their contents from the boat below, by a crane, and placed them in another boat

* Though I am not often guilty of tranſcribing poetry, yet I think the following lines, written by the ingenious poeteſs, Miſs Aikin (now Mrs. Barbauld), ſo elegantly deſcriptive of the advantages and beauties of inland navigation, that they deſerve to be laid before the reader.

' Here ſmooth canals acroſs th' extended plain
' Stretch their long arms to join the diſtant main:
' The ſons of toil with many a weary ſtroke
' Scoop the hard boſom of the ſolid rock;
' Reſiſtleſs thro' the ſtiff oppoſing clay
' With ſteady patience work their gradual way;
' Compel the genius of th' unwilling flood
' Thro' the brown horrors of the aged wood;
' Croſs the lone waſte the ſilver urn they pour,
' And cheer the barren heath or ſullen moor.
' The traveller with pleaſing wonder ſees
' The white ſail gleaming thro' the duſky trees,
' And views the alter'd landſcape with ſurpriſe,
' And doubts the magic ſcenes which round him riſe.
' Now, like a flock of ſwans, above his head
' Their woven wings the [*ſailing*] veſſels ſpread.
' Now meeting ſtreams in artful currents glide,
' While each unmingl'd pours a ſeparate tide;
' Now through the hidden veins of earth they flow,
' And viſit ſulph'rous mines and caves below:
' The ductile ſtreams obey the guiding hand,
' And ſocial plenty circles round the land.'

This picture, drawn on the banks of the Merſea, is copied from the duke of Bridgewater's canals, and it is Brindley's 'guiding hand' which the ductile ſtreams obey.

of exactly the ſame dimenſions, lying in the mill-pond above, thus by a ſucceſſion of boats avoiding the neceſſity of locks. This ſcheme was, however, diſapproved of by the advocates for the navigation by locks; and it totally failed afterwards, and almoſt ruined thoſe concerned in it.

The improvement and embelliſhment of the principal ſeats of commerce furniſh ſtrong proofs of advancing national proſperity. Therefor the capital improvements of London, and of the other great trading towns in the Britiſh dominions, will be briefly noticed in this work *: and among theſe the new bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars may claim a pre-eminence in point of accommodation and ornament. The foundation ſtone of this elegant ſtructure was laid by Sir Thomas Chitty, lord mayor of London (October 31ſt); and under it were placed ſeveral gold, ſilver, and copper, coins of the late king (in whoſe reign it was planned) and a ſilver medal, which the architect, Mr. Robert Mylne, had obtained in the year 1758, as a prize due to his architectural abilities, in Rome. As a teſtimony of their reſpect for the great merit of the prime miniſter, the citizens gave it the name of *Pitt's bridge*: but that name has never come into general uſe, and it is univerſally known by the name of *Blackfriar's bridge*.

At the ſame time a very great number of ſtreets in almoſt every part of the city were widened, by the total removal of ſome houſes, and rebuilding others.

The progreſs of the linen manufacture in Scotland may be judged of from the following ſtatement of the number of yards and value of the linen ſtamped for ſale in the following years.

1740	4,609,672 yards,	£188,777 16 5	in value.
1745	5,536,925	224,252 8 0	
1750	7,572,540	361,736 12 5	
1755	8,122,472	345,349 14 6	
1760	11,747,728	523,153 10 4	

A very large quantity of linen of the finer qualities, which is made in moſt families for private uſe, is not ſtamped. In ſeveral ſhires the quantity of it is probably not leſs than equal to the half of what is made for ſale, and ſtamped.

But all this linen, made in the whole kingdom of Scotland, is conſiderably inferior in value to the *woollen cloth* manufactured in the weſt riding of York-ſhire only.

Some manufactures of a more advantageous nature were now beginning to ariſe in Scotland, eſpecially in the towns and villages within the influence of the ſpirited and commercial city of Glaſgow, among which Paiſley was the ſooneſt diſtinguiſhed for the induſtry and ingenuity of its manufacturers. Bengals (imitations of ſtriped muſlins) handkerchefs,

* As only capital or eſſential improvements will be noticed, the reader will not be troubled with the petty detail of every act for paving or lighting a ſtreet, removing an offenſive houſe, or the like.

lawns, and threads, had been made in Paiſley for a conſiderable time before the year 1759, when ſilk gauzes were firſt made there. As ſoon as they appeared in London, ſome gentlemen there reſolved to avail themſelves of the low rate of wages in Paiſley, and to ſet up a manufacture of ſilk gauzes upon a large ſcale. The ſtagnation, occaſioned by the general mourning for the late king, was of ſervice to their undertaking, as the weavers of light fabrics were all thrown idle, and glad to get employment; and thenceforth ſilk gauzes became the principal article of the place: they ſupplied the London and foreign markets, and gained ſo decided a preference to thoſe of Spitalfields, that the manufacture was ſoon after in a manner reſigned to Paiſley; and there it has paved the way to the ſtill more important manufactures of muſlin and other articles of cotton. Thus the elegancies of dreſs, which in former ages were only to be obtained by prodigious labour and expenſe from India and China, were now ſupplied from countries, which long continued ignorant of every employment, but thoſe of hunting, war, and ſuperſtition *.

The firſt law enacted in the reign of King George III was 'An 'act for the ſupport of his Majeſty's houſehold and the honour and 'dignity of the crown of Great Britain,' whereby the revenue of the civil liſt, which had hitherto been uncertain, was now fixed at £800,000 a-year; out of which the annuities to the king's mother, his uncle, and aunt, were to be paid during their lives. The revenues of Cornwall, and ſome other branches of hereditary revenue, were alſo reſerved to the king over and above the ſtated ſum of £800,000 [1 *Geo. III, c.* 1].

The act [33 *Geo. II, c.* 5] for the importation of ſalted beef, pork, and butter, from Ireland, being found beneficial, it was continued till the 24th of December 1761. [1 *Geo. III, c.* 4.]

From the commencement of the eighteenth century the trade of Ireland advanced with an almoſt-regularly progreſſive augmentation, the ſureſt and moſt pleaſing mark of real and durable commercial proſperity, as appears from the following accounts of its trade with all countries, collected from the Iriſh cuſtom-houſe books, and arranged in decennial averages, for which we are indebted to the laudable induſtry of Lord Sheffield, who has publiſhed it in his *Obſervations on the manufactures, trade, and preſent ſtate of Ireland.*

	Average imports of Ireland.	Average exports of Ireland.
From 1700 to 1710	£513,657 17 2	£553,023 16 0
1710 to 1720	852,905 7 11	1,126,670 6 11

* Paiſley owes its origin as a town to a famous abbay founded in the year 1164 by Walter, ſtewart, or ſteward, of Scotland, anceſtor of the royal family.

	Average imports of Ireland.	Average exports of Ireland.
From 1720 to 1730	£856,936 6 8	£1,019,809 3 2
1730 to 1740	885,044 8 2	1,190,253 3 4
1740 to 1750	1,123,373 1 8	1,485,110 18 3
1750 to 1760	1,594,164 7 1	2,002,354 5 10
As a proof how much the trade with Britain exceeds that with all other countries, deduct from the laſt averages the average imports from, and exports to, Great Britain from 1750 to 1760 -	1,015,306 2 10	1,274,569 7 0
and the trade of Ireland with all the reſt of the world during theſe ten years appears to have averaged only -	578,858 4 3	and 727,784 18 10

‘ Although the balance of trade is in favour of Ireland with moſt ‘ countries, it is conſtantly againſt her with Norway, Denmark, Swe- ‘ den, and the Eaſt country. It is often ſo in the trade with France, the ‘ import of claret exceeding the export of beef and pork to that coun- ‘ try; and ſometimes the balance is againſt her with Holland and Flan- ‘ ders.’ Upon the whole, it may be affirmed, that the trade of Ireland ſince the beginning of the eighteenth century has ‘ increaſed more in ‘ proportion than the trade of England, and, perhaps, if it could be aſ- ‘ certained, we ſhould find, that the external trade of Ireland is, in pro- ‘ portion to her capital, greater than that of England; but Ireland is ‘ far behind as to internal trade, and until there is an improvement in ‘ that reſpect, ſhe cannot expect to ſee her people fully employed, or in ‘ poſſeſſion of any general affluence.’ [*Lord Sheffield's Obſervations on the trade of Ireland, p.p.* 269, 273, *third ed.*

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1759 to Chriſtmas 1760 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Africa	£39,410 14 0		345,546 0 1	135 17 11½
Canaries	3,131 0 5		58,859 4 4	
Denmark and Norway	58,745 10 10	23,845 8 4¾	108,627 3 0	36,357 14 2
East Country	205,464 16 5		190,217 0 11	
East-India	1,785,679 11 1		1,161,670 6 0	
Flanders	31,228 3 0		379,093 11 9	
France	37 5 9		209,946 9 7	341,871 13 4
Germany	668,076 11 4	14,318 6 7	1,544,016 15 5	37,182 17 5
Greenland	10,824 3 0		27 11 7	
Holland	412,397 3 1	95,176 12 9¼	1,784,442 11 2	207,583 2 10½
Ireland	904,180 14 8	127,439 9 7¾	1,050,401 0 10	96,051 10 7½
Mann		86 8 0		890 17 4½
Italy	506,100 15 7	1,014 6 9¾	210,096 10 2	4,648 11 6
Madeira	3,386 14 10		31,605 11 9	256 8 1¾
Poland		9,105 10 0¼		1,314 12 10
Prussia		3,887 17 3¼		
Portugal	299,088 4 8	8,446 9 6¼	1,291,560 11 10	3,158 10 6½
Russia	474,680 2 9	61,824 8 5½	38,710 0 1	1,050 13 9
Spain	460,042 13 9	2,923 16 8½	1,048,222 18 1	10,024 16 7½
Straits	61,850 1 4		399,819 1 9	
Sweden	193,340 2 5	25,280 6 3½	13,657 13 0	5,119 7 4
Turkey	58,916 12 6		55,730 0 10	
Venice	41,138 2 6		6,105 5 11	
Guernsey &c.	62,173 16 9	1,739 13 2¼	73,549 0 6	18 6 3
America in general		475,704 5 7		340,540 4 0½
Hudson's bay	6,142 12 5		4,959 15 10	
Newfoundland	26,360 2 4		56,643 1 6	
Cape-Breton	5 8 3		11,048 14 5	
Quebec	2,154 18 5		51,629 18 5	
Nova Scotia	701 7 4		52,767 2 2	
New-England	37,802 13 1		599,647 14 8	
New-York	21,125 0 0		480,106 3 1	
Pennsylvania	22,754 15 3		707,998 12 0	
Virginia and Maryland	504,451 4 11		605,882 19 5	
Carolina	162,769 6 7		218,131 7 8	
Georgia	12,198 14 10			
Antigua	159,162 19 0		191,117 13 2	
Barbados	223,716 12 11		269,449 6 2	
Bermuda	70 12 7		16,115 14 8	
Guadaloupe	424,366 18 4		118,569 5 10	
Jamaica	1,034,283 3 8		585,771 13 2	
Montserrat	75,936 12 4		23,143 13 4	
Nevis	45,750 11 0		20,390 9 8	
New-Providence	1,730 0 7			
St. Croix			1,657 3 7	
St. Christophers	292,470 19 2		149,142 4 10	
Tortola	30,351 19 0		397 18 7	
British and Irish linens exported on bounty to various countries			188,159 5 0	
Prize goods	465,602 18 5		340,336 3 5	
Imp. and exp. of England	9,832,802 11 1		14,694,070 9 2	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	850,792 19 3	850,792 19 3½	1,086,205 4 8	1,086,205 4 8
Total, Great Britain	10,683,595 10 4		15,781,175 13 10	

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries *, including repeated voyages,

	British		Foreign		Total	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	3,568	258,028	1,088	130,778	4,656	388,806
Outward -	6,204	555,900	999	99,181	7,203	655,081

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England -	6,105	veſſels, of the reputed burthen† of	433,922 tuns,
and of Scotland	976		52,818
Total -	7,081		486,740

The net amount, paid into the exchequer, of the cuſtoms ariſing from merchandize imported and exported in the courſe of the year, including the Weſt-India duty of four and a half per cent, was £1,969,933 : 17 : 9.

There were coined in that part of the year, which was after the acceſſion of King George III, 2,382 pounds of gold, value in money £111,298 : 19 ; and no ſilver.

The above ſtatement of the imports and exports exhibits the amount of the foreign trade of Great Britain, as it appears in the cuſtom-houſe books, without taking into the account that of Ireland or the colonies, except as to their intercourſe with Great Britain; though their trade with other countries was very conſiderable, and was, indeed, the principal fund which enabled moſt of the continental colonies to pay the large balances they owed every year to the mother country.

There is no poſſibility of obtaining any ſtatement of the home trade, which is carried on by means of coaſting and inland navigation and land carriage, and is, with good reaſon, believed to be a vaſt deal greater in value than the whole of the foreign trade‡, *the people of Great Britain being the beſt cuſtomers to the manufacturers and traders of Great Britain.*

The ſums in the cuſtom-houſe books are made up from a valuation ſettled in the year 1697, when the office of inſpector-general of imports and exports was newly inſtituted, which has been adhered to ever ſince,

* In the cuſtom-houſe accounts Ireland, Mann, Guernſey, Jerſey, &c. are reckoned among the foreign countries.

† The following *Nota-bene* is added by Mr. Dalley, aſſiſtant regiſter-general of ſhipping, to an account of veſſels belonging to the ports of Great Britain in this, and ſome other years, laid before the houſe of commons.

'The above is the beſt account that can be prepared, according to the modes then in uſe of aſcertaining the tunnage of veſſels, which was ſeldom done by actual admeaſurement; and the account contained only ſuch veſſels as either entered, or cleared, at their reſpective ports once in the courſe of each year; conſequently thoſe which were abſent from their ports during the whole year are not included.' The real tunnage may in general be reckoned full fifty per cent above the reputed.

‡ It has been calculated, though I know not upon what grounds, or whether it is at all calculable, that the home conſumption of this country is *two-and-thirty times* as much as the exports to foreign countries. Nevertheleſs, the foreign trade is generally the only ſtandard referred to in ſpeculation or argument upon the commercial proſperity or diſtreſs of the country.

notwithſtanding the fluctuation of prices, and the prodigious improvements upon moſt articles of Britiſh manufacture, ſtill ſhipped under the ſame denominations which marked the inferior productions of the ſeventeenth century *. As the accounts thus compiled muſt convey a very inadequate idea of the modern value of moſt articles, they conſequently afford but an inaccurate ſtandard for comparing the value of one article with that of another; but, with reſpect to the compariſon of the trade of one year with that of another, they certainly afford a ſtandard more correct, becauſe *invariable*, than any account, following the frequent fluctuations of prices, could poſſibly do. Therefor, all things conſidered, the cuſtom-houſe accounts, though they may have been ſometimes under-entered in the amount of goods charged with duties, and probably often exaggerated in the amount of thoſe that pay none, undoubtedly contain the beſt evidence that the nature of the caſe admits of. But much caution is neceſſary, and many circumſtances muſt be duely conſidered, before a judgement can be formed from them of the advantages or diſadvantages of any branch of the national commerce.

It has been cuſtomary to conſider our trade with thoſe countries, from which we import a greater value than we export to them, as unprofitable; and that with thoſe, to which our exports exceed the value of our imports, as profitable. But ſuch a rule is liable to a great number of exceptions.—The apparent balance muſt be frequently erroneous from the inaccuracy of the valuation. For example; the Iriſh linens are all rated in the cuſtom-houſe entries in England at 8*d* a yard on an average, whereas 1/4 a yard, the average price aſſumed in the Iriſh cuſtom-houſe books, is rather under the value. As linens generally conſtitute above a half of the value of the imports from Ireland to England and Scotland, the error in the value of that one article turns the balance of trade with Ireland againſt Great Britain: [See *Lord Sheffield's Obſervations on the manufactures, &c. of Ireland, p.* 276, *third ed.* 1785] and the valuations in many other branches of our commerce are not a whit more accurate.—Money brought into Great Britain is not ſubject to entry, and therefor does not appear in the cuſtom-houſe books, any more than bills of exchange.—Money carried out ſwells the amount of export entries †, and conſequently enlarges the ſuppoſed general profit;

* A pretty accurate ſtandard for eſtimating the proportion between the real, and the cuſtom-houſe, valuation of any cargo, or any year's exportation, of which the particulars are known, is furniſhed by the declarations now made in compliance with the convoy act, which took place in the year 1798. A good ſpecimen of thoſe proportions, drawn up by Mr. Irving, the inſpector-general, will be given with the tranſactions of that year.

† Till the year 1765 the gold and ſilver carried abroad were entered in the cuſtom-houſe books as merchandize exported, under the title of Foreign gold and bullion (being £884,102:11:3 for the year 1760) which, being *foreign*, muſt have been previouſly imported, though the cuſtom-houſe takes no cognizance of the importation. In extracting the accounts for the years 1760—1764 I have omitted this article, which, as it ſtands in the exports, appears to ſwell the *favourable* balance; whereas it is in fact the neceſſary payment of an *unfavourable* balance. In time of peace, the bullion, which is exported, goes moſtly to China.

though, according to the doctrine that gold and ſilver are the only ſtandard of wealth, ſuch exportation is ſo much clear loſs to the nation.—Great quantities of goods, ſubject to high duties, totally prohibited, or ſhipped for exportation upon bounties or drawbacks, are clandeſtinely imported. Such importations, though not appearing in the general account, there is reaſon to believe, have conſiderable influence on the exchange with ſome neighbouring countries *. And ſuch of thoſe ſmuggled goods as have been *entered* for exportation, perhaps over and over again, thus make great additions to the fallacious eſtimate of the profitable balance, without ever being in reality exported at all for foreign conſumption.—All goods, exported for the uſe of our armies abroad, are part of the national expenditure; and can no more conſtitute a real part of the profitable balance, apparently ſwelled by their exportation, than the goods taken from his ſtock, by a manufacturer or ſhop-keeper for his own uſe, can be ſtated as enlarging his profitable ſales.—Cargoes entered outward, which are loſt at ſea, or taken by the enemy, ſwell the amount of exports, and conſequently of ſuppoſed profit; whereas in fact they are a dead loſs to the nation (and, in caſe of capture, tend to enrich the enemy, by whom they are in reality exported) while the want of the homeward cargo, which ſhould have been imported in return, and which to the individual ſufferer is not only a real loſs, but a heavy diſappointment and derangement of his plans of trade, tends to enlarge the ſuppoſed balance of trade in our favour. And the loſs or capture of homeward-bound ſhips in the ſame manner, by diminiſhing the amount of entered imports, fallaciouſly adds to the apparent favourable balance.

On the other hand, there are branches of trade, which would be ruinous, if the imports did not exceed the exports, or, in other words, if the balance were not *unfavourable*, according to this ſtandard of eſtimation.—Such is the trade with all our Weſt-India ſettlements, which have been formed and ſupported by Britiſh capitals, and in a great meaſure owned by proprietors reſiding in Great Britain. Therefor the outward cargoes † are to be conſidered as the ſtock employed in the culture of the plantations; and the homeward cargoes are in fact the pro-

* For example, can we ſuppoſe that England this year bought goods from France only to the amount of £37 in return for goods to the amount of £209,946, or that Scotland took not one article in return for tobacco, &c. amounting to £341,871, ſeeing that the commerce in tobacco was tolerated on both ſides.

† While the linens exported on the bounty were made a ſeparate article in the account of exports, theſe outward cargoes were lower than the truth by the whole amount of thoſe linens ſent to the Weſt-India iſlands, in which a very large proportion of them was conſumed, or ſold to the Spaniards. In the year 1758 the value of the bounty linens ſhipped from England to all the colonies was £200,657 : 16 : 3, beſides thoſe ſent from Scotland. In 1761 it was only £141,895 : 6 : 0; and in 1762 it ſunk (apparently in conſequence of the war with Spain) to £28,260 : 13 : 1; and the vigilance of our own cruiſers and revenue officers prevented the revival of the lucrative clandeſtine trade with the Spaniards on the return of peace. After the year 1764 the bounty linens were more properly entered along with the other goods in the exports of each particular country.

ceeds of that culture, the exceſs of which is not a loſs to the nation, but the real amount of the net profits coming into the pockets of the proprietors, and giving a very comfortable demonſtration how much the amount of the product is more than the prime coſt. In other words, the outward cargoes are the *ſeed*, and the inward cargoes are the *harveſt*. Neither is the balance, ſtated as due to the iſlands, remitted to them to increaſe their ſtock of circulating money. A part of it is paid, as intereſt or diſcharge of debts, to capitaliſts at home, to whom many of the plantations are deeply mortgaged. Another part (and, I hope, the largeſt) reſts with the proprietors, of whom a very conſiderable number are merchants reſiding in Great Britain, and many of the others alſo reſide in England, living on the balance of their plantation produce, which, if not entirely exhauſted in their expenditure, is laid out in purchaſes at home, or in improving the Weſt-India plantations, and thus in either way adding to, and by no means deducting from, the national opulence.

The ſame reaſoning will alſo hold good with the trade to Hudſon's bay, and ſeveral others, wherein the exceſs of the imports is the real profit, and a continuation of *favourable* balances would in a few years ruin the trade. In ſome branches of buſineſs the goods exported are merely the charges of trade, as is the caſe in all fiſheries: for example, if a large ſum appeared as the amount of goods carried to Greenland, and none at all brought from it, it is evident, that the apparent *favourable* balance is a *dead loſs*, and that the adventurers, beſides the goods ſhipped, and entered as exported, loſe alſo the wages and proviſions of the ſeamen, and the wear and tear of their ſhips; whereas in ſuch trades the exceſs of the imports above the exports (or, if any body pleaſes to call it ſo, the *unfavourable* balance) ſhews the amount of the national gain.

There is another kind of deceptive inference to be drawn from the cuſtom-houſe entries, if not duely guarded againſt. It is neceſſary to advert, that the exports to ſome countries conſtitute the prime coſt of cargoes to be ſhipped off from them to a third country. Thus the wines of Madeira are ſent to the Britiſh ſettlements in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, and, even if intended for Britain, are often carried by the circuitous route of thoſe diſtant regions, before they are brought home. The bulk of the cargoes from Africa conſiſts of the miſerable natives, who are ſold in the Weſt-Indies; and the proceeds are generally remitted to Great Britain in bills of exchange, which do not appear at all in the cuſtom-houſe books. And in like manner moſt of the cargoes, carried from Newfoundland and the adjacent countries, conſiſt of fiſh, which never come to Great Britain, but are ſold in Spain, Portugal, and other Roman catholic countries, and their proceeds alſo brought home in bills of exchange.

Were we to eſtimate the proſperity of a country merely from the balance of trade in the cuſtom-houſe books, Scotland muſt be pronounced to be in a ruinous ſtate ever ſince the American war, the imports from foreign countries being generally more than the exports to them; as will appear by the accounts to be found in the ſubſequent part of this work. But the truth is, that ſince that event the people of Scotland have paid more attention than formerly to manufactures, which (by land carriage and coaſting navigation, neither of which appear in the cuſtom-houſe books) are carried to every part of Great Britain, and enter to a much greater amount into the exports of London than into thoſe of Glaſgow: and that, upon the whole, the trade of Scotland is now more flouriſhing than ever.

From what has been ſaid it will appear, that all arguments, calculations, or arrangements, founded upon the ſuppoſed balance of trade, are very fallacious; and that thoſe founded upon the balance with any particular country are generally much more fallacious than thoſe deduced from the general balance of the whole foreign trade of the nation *.

1761, January 15th.—In India Colonel Coote took the famous city of Pondicherry, ſituated about ſixty miles ſouth from Madras on the Coromandel coaſt, and now almoſt the only ſettlement in that quarter of the world remaining in the hands of the French: and, as whatever wealth remained to them after the reduction of their other poſts, was now amaſſed in that place, it rivalled, perhaps ſurpaſſed, the opulence and commercial ſplendour of Madras. This conqueſt may be ſaid to have put an end to the power of the French in India, of which Major Rennell ſays, that 'it was a bright meteor, that dazzled at firſt, but which ſoon burnt itſelf 'out, and left their Eaſt-India company in utter darkneſs.'

Mr. Law, a nephew of the famous author of the Miſſiſippi ſcheme in France, having got together a body of about 200 French ſoldiers, perſuaded the great mogul to attack Bengal, which was under the protection of the Britiſh forces. The mogul's vaſt army was completely routed by Major Carnack, and the monarch himſelf, together with his friend Law, made priſoner; and this ſplendid victory was gained on the ſame day that Pondicherry ſurrendered.

New taxes being neceſſary to ſupport the expenſe of the war, an additional exciſe duty of 3ſ † was laid on every barrel of beer or ale worth above 6ſ, to be brewed for ſale in England after the 24th day of Ja-

* Though I am conſcious that theſe matters are much better underſtood by many of my readers than by myſelf, I have thought it would not be improper to ſubjoin ſuch remarks to the firſt ſtatement of the cuſtom-houſe accounts, as they may be uſeful to ſome, who have not had occaſion to turn their thoughts upon ſuch ſubjects.

† In conſequence of this advance, the publicans, after encountering ſome oppoſition, got the price of porter raiſed from threepence to threepence halfpenny a quart.

nuary, and of twenty-four fifty-ſeventh parts of 3*ſ* in Scotland, agreeable to the ſeventh article of the union.

The duties to be raiſed by this new exciſe were appropriated to pay the intereſt of twelve millions now borrowed as follows.

For £11,400,000 the ſubſcribers were to receive for every £100 an annuity or annual intereſt of - - - £3 0 0

And alſo an annuity terminable in 99 years of - 1 2 6

Both to be computed from 5th January 1761, and to be payable at the bank in equal half-yearly dividends on the 5th of January and 5th of July in every year.

The ſubſcribers to the remaining £600,000 were entitled to £60,000 lottery tickets at £10 each. In this lottery there were 11,945 prizes from £10,000 (of which there were two) down to £20; and the blanks were entitled to £6. But the holders of the tickets, inſtead of being paid in money, as in the preſent times, were put in poſſeſſion of ſo much three-per-cent ſtock, as fortune appointed for them, to be computed from 5th January 1762; ſo that a prize of £10,000 entitled the fortunate adventurer to an income of £300 a year, and a blank (valued at £6) to one of 3/7 a year: and the value of them was whatever ſuch income would ſell for, according to the fluctuating price of the funds. [1 *Geo. III, c.* 7.]

In every loan act there is a ſection, in virtue of which the bank is to continue a corporation, till all the annuities therein provided ſhall be paid off. But that long term does not extend to the privilege of *excluſive* banking, or iſſuing paper money.

Mr. John Wood of Wedneſbury in Stafford-ſhire obtained a grant for a new invention of making malleable iron out of pig iron *.

Canada being now a Britiſh province, the lords of trade and plantations addreſſed the king, that the trade of that country might be put under the ſame regulations with that of the other colonies, except ſuch caſes as might be otherways particularly provided for in the capitulation. After the conqueſt of this vaſt province, large orders for furs were forwarded to this country from Flanders, and even from Ruſſia,

* Mr. Eton mentions a diſcovery, by an Arabian at Conſtantinople, of the art of caſting iron in ſuch a manner, that, when it came out of the mould, it was perfectly malleable: and he obſerves, with ſome indignation at the wretched ſtate of knowledge and government in Turkey, that this art, which might have been of the greateſt importance to ſociety, and *which would have inſured the inventor a ſplendid fortune in Chriſtendom*, languiſhed for want of encouragement, and periſhed with the inventor, who died poor and unknown. Some men of ſcience (Germans and Italians) after his death puzzled themſelves, but in vain, in endeavouring to diſcover the proceſs of his art. [*Survey of Turkey, p.* 227.] Such, for want of the intereſt neceſſary to procure encouragement, has been the fate of many a valuable diſcovery in other countries as well as in Turkey.

Mr. Reaumur, ſo well known for his improvement of the thermometer, in the year 1772 publiſhed an eſſay on the art of rendering caſt iron ductile and fit to be forged: and a manufactory of it was ſet up in France, but afterwards given up; whence we may infer, that the proceſs, if effectual, was unprofitable.

which, though a country of furs, does not produce a ſufficient quantity for the ſupply of the inhabitants.

Ireland has of late made a rapid progreſs in national improvements; and the grand improvement of internal navigation by artificial canals has not been neglected. A canal, connecting the interior part of the country with Newry, had been begun about two years before, and was now open for the reception of gabbards * and lighters.

The act of parliament, [6 *Geo. II, c.* 13.] for ſecuring and encouraging the trade of the ſugar colonies, being nearly expired, it was continued till the 29th of September 1763, and thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion of parliament †. [1 *Geo. III, c.* 9.]

The act, permitting for a limited time the importation of tallow from Ireland duty-free, was extended to hogs-lard and greaſe. [1 *Geo. III, c.* 10.] It was hoped, that the extravagant price of candles, which preſſed ſo hard on the poor, would thereby be ſomewhat reduced: and therefor this law, ſo extended, has been renewed from time to time.

That the importers of gold and ſilver might not be diſcouraged by any deficiency of the revenue, appropriated for the ſupport of the mints of England and Scotland, the treaſury was empowered to defray the neceſſary expenſes attending them for ſeven years, reckoning from the 1ſt of March 1761, ſo as they, with the coinage duties, do not exceed £15,000 a year. [1 *Geo. III, c.* 16.]

Beſides the twelve millions lately voted, the parliament found it neceſſary to provide ſeveral large ſums by exchequer bills, and by borrowing from the bank and from the ſinking fund, for the urgent expenſes of the war.

The particulars of the public expenditure of this year, which are any way connected with commercial eſtabliſhments, including colonization, were the following.

For the ſupport of Nova Scotia, - -	£10,595	12	9
For the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, - -	4,057	10	0
Of which ſum £1000 was appropriated for purchaſing from the cultivators the cocoons of the ſilk-worms: and for the further encouragement of that branch of induſtry, Mr. Ottolengi, an Italian, was appointed, with a proper ſalary, to inſtruct the coloniſts in the management of ſilk-worms and ſilk.			
Allowed as a compenſation to the provinces of North-America for their expenſes in levying troops to oppoſe the French forces, -	200,000	0	0

* Gabbards are ſmall veſſels of a flat conſtruction, fit for coaſting and river navigation.

† This ſupplemental continuation being, I believe, in all the acts which refer to limited periods, it will not be neceſſary to repeat it every time ſuch acts are mentioned.

Allowed to the Eaſt-India company towards the expenſe of their military eſtabliſhment, -	20,000	0	0
To the city of London towards repairing and widening the paſſage over London bridge, -	15,000	0	0
For ſupporting the Britiſh forts in Africa, -	13,000	0	0
To which may be added,			
For the foundling hoſpital *, -	£44,197	10	0

[1 *Geo. III, cc.* 18, 19, 20.]

An act was paſſed for enlarging and improving the harbour of Whitehaven in Cumberland.

The king having recommended it to parliament to render the condition of the judges more independent, their appointments and ſalaries were fixed for life, unleſs they ſhould render themſelves liable to be removed by an addreſs of both houſes of parliament. [1 *Geo. III, c.* 23.]

A new machine for catching fiſh, ſaid to be very ſimple in conſtruction, and very effectual in execution, was exhibited at Richmond on the Thames. This one, being on a ſmall ſcale, was worked by a child: but the large ones were propoſed by the inventor to require only two men, even in the moſt tempeſtuous weather; and it was added, that the uſe of them was entirely exempted from the very great hazard to which the lives of the fiſhermen are expoſed in boats.

The iſland of Dominica (one of thoſe called neutral iſlands) in the Weſt-Indies was taken from the French by Commodore Sir James Douglas, and General Lord Rollo, commander of the land forces, with a reinforcement furniſhed from Guadaloupe under the command of Colonel Melville, lieutenant-governor of that iſland. Dominica has ſince become a very valuable Britiſh colony, as will appear in due time.

The governor of Barbados was commiſſioned to be alſo governor of Dominica, St. Vincent's, Tobago, and the reſt of the iſlands to windward (eaſtward) of Guadaloupe.

The iſland called Belleiſle on the coaſt of France ſurrendered to the Britiſh arms. But this capture, which was merely an operation of the war, had little or no influence upon commerce.

The Dutch this ſeaſon employed 152 veſſels in their herring fiſhery on the coaſts of Shetland and Scotland, and 122 in their fiſhery on the coaſt of Iceland.

While the Dutch were thus working their GOLD MINE † upon the Scottiſh ſhores, the Scots had only 17 veſſels, meaſuring 745 tons, and carrying 174 men, employed on this important national object: and

* A ſum almoſt as large was granted the next year, and ſuch grants have been often repeated, as alſo the grants for Nova-Scotia, &c. which are annual.

† So the Dutch call their herring fiſhery, which is entirely carried on upon our coaſts.

this year's was the greateſt outfit for the fiſhery ſince the attempt to revive it by bounties *.

In a treaty of peace and commerce concluded with the emperor of Morocco in July 1760, and ratified 5th Auguſt 1761, it was ſtipulated,

Article 2, 6) That all Engliſh ſhips arriving in any port of the empire of Morocco, and finding their cargoes unſaleable there, ſhould be at liberty to carry them to any other port of the empire, and pay duty only once, fire-arms, ſwords, and other implements of war, and materials for building ſhips, being free of all duty; and that ſhips bound to other parts of the world, calling at any of the ports of Morocco, ſhould pay no duty; and ſhips belonging to either party, driven into the ports of either country by ſtreſs of weather, ſhould be protected, and enjoy perfect liberty.

3, 4, 17) Ships of both parties ſhould have liberty to navigate the ſeas without any ſearch or hindrance on ſhewing their paſſports.

7, 8) The king ſhould be at liberty to eſtabliſh a conſul, or conſuls, in the dominions of the emperor, who ſhould reſide in what ports or places he, or they, ſhould think proper; they, and all the Britiſh merchants, with their families and ſervants, enjoying perfect liberty, religious, civil, and commercial. And the ſubjects of Morocco ſhould enjoy equal liberty in Britain.

12) Subjects of Morocco carrying cargoes from Britain ſhould have the advantage of a Britiſh convoy to Gibraltar, and thence to their own port on the coaſt of Morocco.

15) All ſubjects of the king, whether Britiſh or German, found onboard the ſhips of any other nation, with whom the emperor of Morocco is at war, are to be delivered free of ranſom to the Britiſh conſul, or the principal Britiſh merchant at the port they are carried into. The people of Morocco, found onboard any veſſel taken by Britiſh ſhips of war, are to be treated in the ſame favourable manner.

24) The payment of 225,000 peſos duros [hard dollars] was to be conſidered as entire ſatisfaction for all redemptions, differences, difficulties, &c.

The people of England now beginning to underſtand the great advantages of inland navigation, the duke of Bridgewater's example was followed on the oppoſite ſide of the country in a canal extending from Lynn to Northampton, the navigation of which commenced with the paſſage of 38 barges loaded with coals, &c. on the 7th of Auguſt.

It is ſaid, that the Dutch annually receive from this country the enormous ſum of £100,000 for the ſingle article of turbot, and alſo large ſums for other ſpecies of fiſh. The Norwegians alſo carry off large ſums for lobſters and crabs. It was therefor a patriotic undertak-

* A chronological ſtatement of the Scottiſh fiſhery will be afterwards inſerted.

ing in the ſociety for the encouragement of arts and commerce to advance £2000 upon a plan ſuggeſted by Mr. Tull (the ſon of the founder of the horſe-hoeing ſyſtem of huſbandry) for ſupplying London with fiſh brought from the coaſt by land-carriage, which was put under the management of Captain J. Blake.

Upon invitation from Sir Samuel Fludyer, the firſt new lord mayor of London after the king's marriage, the king, queen, and royal family, the court, and the foreign ambaſſadors, were entertained at the inſtallation dinner at Gild-hall; on which occaſion one of the foreign miniſters was ſo ſtruck with the ſuperb diſplay of the magnificence and opulence of the city, that he ſaid, ſuch an entertainment was only fit to be given by one ſovereign to another.

A method of preſerving the bottoms of ſhips from the worm, and from the adheſion of weeds, had been ſome years before this time ſubmitted to the ſociety for the encouragement of arts and manufactures; and ſome experiments, made in various climates, with wood prepared according to the directions of the inventor, were found ſatisfactory; ſo that this new method was ſuppoſed to be of infinite ſervice to all kinds of ſhipping.

But this method was ſoon ſuperſeded by another, and apparently a more effectual, preſervative, compoſed of thin ſheets or plates of ſmooth copper, which no worm or animal of any kind will touch, and no vegetable will adhere to, which are great objects in point of ſwift ſailing. It likeways keeps the ſhip tighter than any other ſheathing, and is infinitely preferable to the old ſheathing of lead, which was clumſy and intolerably heavy; whereas the copper is neat and much lighter than the thinneſt ſheathing of boards, and laſts almoſt as long as the ſhip can be kept afloat. The firſt trial was made on the Alarm, one of the king's ſhips, at Woolwich: and it ſoon came into general uſe, not only in the navy, but alſo in the merchants' ſervice.

A manufacture of cambric, in imitation of the French fabric, was eſtabliſhed at Winchelſea, which was expected to be of great national advantage, by ſaving the great ſums ſent to France for that article.

Among the patriotic grants of the Iriſh parliament for the general improvement of the country, the following are ſelected, as more immediately connected with commerce and manufactures.

To the truſtees for the linen manufacture for two years *	£8,000
To encourage a cambric manufacture at Dundalk -	1,375
To the corporations of ſeveral inland navigations -	13,500
The great canal from Dublin to the Shannon -	10,000
Making the Shannon navigable from Limerik to Kilaloe	8,000

* By the judicious management of the truſtees the linen manufacture of Ireland was this year increaſed upwards of £80,000, and was ſtill increaſing.

For a new key and other improvements at Limerik -	4,500
Improving the navigation of the Barrow and the Boyne	4,000
Building piers at Dunleary and Balbriggan - -	4,500
Improving Cork harbour by clearing the channel -	4,000
Finiſhing the harbour of Wicklow - -	1,850
To finiſh a dock at Dublin - - -	1,000
To lengthen the wall of the ballaſt-office - -	5,000
And to the Dublin ſociety for the improvement of huſbandry and other uſeful arts - - -	12,000

Theſe grants, when added to thoſe voted for churches, ſchools, hoſpitals, mills, &c. are, conſidering all things, wonderfully liberal: and there is this great bleſſing that attends ſuch expenditure of public money, that, if the object ſhould even not be accompliſhed, yet the money is employed in diffuſing induſtry and comfort among a vaſt number of workmen, who are thereby enabled to maintain their families, and to raiſe up a healthy and induſtrious race of future workmen to ſupport and enrich the ſtate. And as ſuch public works, conſidered and planned by the national wiſdom, and executed under the ſuperintendence of men of the firſt profeſſional abilities, ſcarcely ever miſcarry, they are in every ſenſe the ſureſt means to enrich a country. The ſame, or ſimilar, grants were repeated, as often as they were needful, by the parliament of Ireland.

For the convenience of change, gold pieces of the value of 5/3, called quarter guineas, were coined; but being very ſmall, they were found trifling and inconvenient, and the circulation of them was diſcontinued in a few years.

The following is a ſtatement of the number of cattle, &c. killed in the city of London during the year 1761.

711,121 ſheep and lambs,	146,932 hogs for pork,
78,254 bulls, oxen, and cows,	41,000 hogs for bacon,
104,760 calves,	52,600 ſucking pigs.

The following ſtatement of the royal navy of Great Britain in the year 1761, may be uſeful in order to compare it with ſubſequent ones.

2 ſhips of the 1ſt rate, carrying - 96 to 110 guns;	12 bomb veſſels;
11 - 2d rate, 84— 90	10 fire ſhips;
60 - 3d rate, 64— 80	4 ſtore ſhips;
43 - 4th rate, 48— 60	39 hired armed veſſels;
71 - 5th rate, 26— 44	7 royal yachts;
40 - 6th rate, 16— 24	5 ſmall yachts;
68 - ſloops, 8— 14	Total, 372 veſſels of all kinds.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1760 to Chriſtmas 1761 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Africa	£12,201 3 2		£325,307 1 11	£1,700 6 4
Canaries	482 17 10		64,543 5 1	
Denmark and Norway	78,377 6 11	£25,286 3 2	111,227 0 1	44,013 11 0
East Country	133,536 7 0		202,254 16 1	
East-India	840,987 11 4		845,797 0 4	
Flanders	30,546 11 5		425,130 19 4	
France	480 8 2		74,242 5 7	102,951 14 2
Germany	704,744 13 5	12,002 8 1	2,249,279 2 9	82,719 4 2
Greenland	7,972 17 10		34 11 10	
Holland	437,127 7 7	86,981 19 3	2,245,695 12 4	436,470 1 4
Ireland	853,804 8 0	101,992 16 11	1,476,114 14 3	166,282 6 4
Iceland		12 10 0		21 15 0
Mann		59 6 0		1,878 6 0
Italy	761,916 18 7		199,461 6 9	4,173 15 0
Madeira	6,714 15 9		46,931 16 9	1,826 11 2
Poland		13,850 17 6		3,097 17 3
Prussia		3,831 11 1		
Portugal	241,956 1 9	8,211 19 1	1,264,071 15 1	2,100 13 7
Russia	765,427 17 9	77,658 4 6	47,479 17 10	238 10 0
Spain	433,917 4 9	4,837 18 11	1,253,737 17 11	10,597 18 5
Straits	103,628 16 5		389,577 5 2	
Sweden	270,968 7 7	27,781 14 7	23,128 4 8	2,998 0 5
Turkey	163,366 19 6		54,282 14 2	
Venice	15,229 12 5		26,367 6 7	
Guernsey, &c.	85,090 2 8	6,469 16 8	54,433 18 1	124 10 0
Belle-isle	821 4 0		54,576 12 8	
America in general		379,662 9 3		304,527 10 2
Hudson's bay	11,294 3 2		5,858 16 10	
Newfoundland	25,282 7 8		57,964 2 10	
Cape-Breton	16 0 0			
Quebec	14,015 16 1		226,292 9 5	
Nova-Scotia	80 14 0		59,408 17 3	
New-England	46,225 11 11		334,225 13 7	
New-York	48,648 0 2		289,570 5 1	
Pennsylvania	39,170 0 0		204,067 2 3	
Virginia and Maryland	455,083 0 2		545,350 14 6	
Carolina	253,002 17 11		254,587 11 0	
Georgia	5,704 11 9		24,279 19 9	
Antigua	280,869 16 1		108,244 4 8	
Barbados	253,900 10 1		215,479 16 3	
Bermuda	1,266 0 3		14,207 2 2	
Guadaloupe	482,179 2 2		131,942 19 11	
Jamaica	932,197 5 8		441,618 12 3	
Montserrat	79,982 0 4		21,072 2 9	
Nevis	67,538 12 3		12,134 14 4	
New-Providence	1,727 7 0			
St. Croix	199 10 0		254 11 5	
St. Christophers	294,850 14 5		134,069 11 11	
St. Thomas	5 0 0			
Tortola	44,286 2 11		998 4 2	
Monte Christi	8,314 11 5		2,533 4 5	
St. Eustathius			5,603 6 9	
British and Irish linens exported on bounty to various countries			154,550 18 0	
Prize goods	248,702 5 1		195,164 14 1	
Imp. and exp. of England	9,543,901 14 4		14,873,191 0 10	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	748,639 15 0	748,639 15 0	1,165,722 1 2	1,165,722 1 2
Total, Great Britain	10,292,541 9 4		16,038,913 2 0	

There were entered this year from and to foreign countries in the various ports of Great Britain:

	British.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	4164	527,557	1848	180,102	6012	707,659
Outward -	5818	466,096	1079	119,308	6897	585,404

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	6119	veſſels of the reputed burthen of		405,793 tuns.
and of Scotland	956	-	-	51,523
Total	7075	-	-	457,316

The net amount of cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was,

from the cuſtom-houſe in London, -	£1,858,151 18 11
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh, -	8,000 0 0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain,	£1,866,151 18 11

And there were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

11,790 pounds of gold, value - -	£550,887 15 0
and 10 pounds of ſilver, - - -	31 0 0
	£550,918 15 0

1762, January 4th—War was proclaimed againſt Spain.

January 22d—A treaty was entered into with the bey of Tunis; but though called a treaty of commerce, it contains nothing worth mentioning in a commercial point of view.

A loan was opened for twelve millions by open ſubſcription at the bank. For every £100 the ſubſcribers were entitled to an annuity, which was to continue at £4 for 19 years, and afterwards to be reduced to £3, and alſo to a terminable annuity of £1 for 98 years. [2 *Geo. III, c.* 10.]

The trade carried on by the French with the Weſt-Indies, though crippled by the capture of ſeveral of their iſlands, was ſtill conſiderable and productive: and therefor the Britiſh miniſtry conſidered their remaining iſlands as the points wherein they were moſt vulnerable, and by the poſſeſſion of which a peace might moſt ſpeedily be effected. Martinique, the chief of the French windward iſlands, was accordingly attacked by a conſiderable force under the command of General Monkton and Admiral Rodney; and by a final capitulation (for there were two previous partial ones) the whole iſland was ſurrendered to the Britiſh commanders (February 13th).

The conqueſt of this important iſland naturally drew after it the ſub-

miſſion of the remainder. Grenada and its dependencies, and St. Lucia and St. Vincent's, long the ſubjects of fierce conteſts between France and England, following the ſame example, France had not now a ſingle poſſeſſion in any of the iſlands to windward of Puerto-rico. All were ſubject to Great Britain. And though theſe iſlands are only ſpecks on the ſurface of the ocean, yet being vigorouſly cultivated, exporting the whole of their produce, and importing nine tenths of all the articles neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence and for carrying on their cultivation, the trade of each ſingle iſland with the mother-country is equal, or even ſuperior, to that of ſome kingdoms *.

The number of houſes in Boſton, in New England, was found on a ſurvey to be 2757. If we allow five inhabitants to every houſe, the number of inhabitants will be 13,785.

It may certainly be conſidered as a proof of the proſperity of the people of Ireland, as well as of their ſatisfaction with the conduct of the earl of Halifax, their lord-lieutenant, that they addreſſed him with a propoſal of augmenting the ſalary of himſelf and his ſucceſſors to £16,000 a-year.

The lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia having conciliated the friendſhip of the neighbouring Indians, who had been converted to the religion and intereſts of the French, an act of the legiſlature of the province was paſſed to guard againſt the interruption of the harmony, by fraudulent practices in thoſe who trade with the Indians, and to oblige all ſuch to take out licences, and give ſecurity for their compliance with the regulations of the act. This act moreover eſtabliſhed a tariff of regulated prices, which were fixed as the ſtandard of the trading intercourſe between the white people and the Indians.

A pound of the beſt ſpring beaver was valued at 5*s*, and eſtabliſhed as the fixed ſtandard, by which all other goods were to be valued as follows.

1¼ lb. of fall beaver	equal to 1 lb. of ſpring beaver.	1 large cat-ſkin (loup ſervie)	2 lb.
1 otter-ſkin		Seal-ſkins, according to ſize, from 8*d* to 3/4	
3 ſable, or martin ſkins		6 lb. of feathers	1
6 minks-ſkins		1 large blanket	2
10 muſk-rats or muſquaſh ſkins		Rum, per gallon	½
5 lb. of deer-ſkin		Molaſſes, per gallon	⅖
10 ermine-ſkins		30 lb. flour	1
1 large good bear-ſkin	1¼ lb.	14 lb. pork	1
1 red fox-ſkin	½	Stroud, per yard	1½
1 black fox-ſkin	2	and all other merchandize in proportion to theſe rates.	
1 ſilver fox-ſkin,	2½		
1 large mooſe-ſkin	1½		

* In this ſame year (1762) the produce of Martinique imported into Great Britain exceeded that of any other of our iſlands, Jamaica and Guadaloupe (alſo lately a French iſland) only excepted; and the returns of its commerce were more extenſive than thoſe of our trade with Denmark and Norway, with Sweden, or with Spain.

From a ſtatiſtical ſurvey of Nova Scotia, taken at this time, the population and cultivation were as follows.

In Halifax 2500 people, Lunenburg 1400, Horton 900, Cornwallis 600, Liverpool 504, eleven other towns, or townſhips, from 60 to 350, 1840.—Total 7744.

There were 14,640 acres of cleared upland in graſs, and 86,000 acres of ſalt marſh in ſome degree of cultivation.

For the encouragement of the fiſheries of Nova Scotia, parliament permitted ſalt to be carried to that province from any part of Europe in Britiſh veſſels, as by the act, 15 Cha. II, was allowed to Newfoundland and New England. [2 *Geo. III, c.* 24, *paſſed 2d June.*]

According to the report of Mr. Jones, who was ſent by the governor of Jamaica to the Muſquito ſhore, to act in place of the deceaſed ſuperintendent, 'from the year 1759 to 1762, the Muſquito ſhore was inhabited by 203 white people (the detachment of 30 ſoldiers included) with 189 free meſtees and mulattoes, about 3000 Muſquito Indians, and 914 negro ſlaves, in all 4306 ſouls, beſides the friendly Indians on the back part of the country. The imports of Britiſh commodities, on an average amounting to £18,500 a-year, and the exports to £30,792, employed 1150 tuns of ſhipping and 115 ſeamen.'

The commodities furniſhed by the native Indians are mahogany, ſarſaparilla, ſilk-graſs, honey, bees'-wax, deer and leopard ſkins, hammocks made of cotton and ſilk-graſs, cotton cloths called cavallys for covering beds and tables, which they make large and fine, of various colours, with ſtripes and figures. They alſo furniſh great quantities of turtle-ſhell.

Mr. Jones obſerves, that the imports and exports of the bay of Honduras are much larger than thoſe of the Muſquito ſhore.

Parliament paſſed a new act for providing a reward for the diſcovery of the longitude at ſea, whereby a ſum not exceeding £2000 was appointed to be paid by the commiſſioners of the longitude to any perſon whoſe propoſal they ſhould think deſerving of a trial. [2 *Geo. III, c.* 18.]

The many improvements of the inſtruments uſed for taking the altitude of the ſun, have made it perfectly eaſy for navigators to aſcertain their latitude very exactly, every day that the ſun is viſible. But for the longitude they were obliged to depend upon the accuracy of the courſe ſteered, and the menſuration of the ſhip's velocity by an inſtrument called the log, which are both liable to much uncertainty—from the indeterminate allowance for currents and lee way, which muſt depend on the judgment, or conjecture, of the navigator—from an erroneous conſtruction of the compaſs—from erroneous meaſurement of the log-line—erroneous quantity of ſand in the half-minute glaſs—inexperience of the perſon heaving the log—ſwell of the ſea—variation of

the ſhip's rate of going between the ſtated times of heaving the log, &c. Hence a method of aſcertaining the longitude, with the ſame degree of accuracy which is attainable in the latitude, has for ages been the grand deſideratum in navigation: and ſince the year 1714, when the parliament offered a reward of £20,000 for the beſt method of aſcertaining the longitude at ſea, many ſchemes have been deviſed, but all to little or no purpoſe, as going generally upon wrong principles, till that heaven-taught artiſt, Mr. John Harriſon, aroſe.

It is evident, that as the globe revolves round its axis in twenty-four hours, every one of the 360 degrees of longitude muſt be equal to four minutes of time; and conſequently, that if a ſhip has ſailed from any given point, where the ſun was in the zenith, (or in his meridional altitude) and next day, when the ſun is in the zenith, it is found by a watch, which goes perfectly true, that it is four minutes after twelve, the ſhip has made one degree of difference of longitude to the weſtward; or, if the watch wants four minutes of twelve, one degree of eaſt longitude; and ſo in proportion for any greater or leſs difference. Hence nothing more is required to make us ſure of the longitude than a watch perfectly true. But watches, like all other productions of human art, are liable to error, and are, moreover, in a conſiderable degree affected by the changes of the atmoſphere. To the correction of theſe defects Mr. Harriſon devoted the aſſiduous ſtudies of a long life; and he produced, what is probably, in principle, the neareſt approach that ever will be made by human ingenuity to the great object of the wiſhes of navigators and philoſophers, a *chronometer* or time-keeper, which, in two voyages made by his ſon to the Weſt-Indies, under the direction of the commiſſioners of the longitude, was found to determine the longitude at ſea with an accuracy beyond the niceſt exactneſs required by the act of parliament, as appeared by certificates from the captain and officers of the ſhip, which was appointed to attend him on the trial, and alſo from the governor of Jamaica.

The board of longitude thereupon paid Mr. Harriſon £1500. And, that we may connect the whole of this buſineſs together, parliament next year ordered £5000 to be paid to him, on condition that he ſhould lay open to the public the principles upon which his time-keeper was conſtructed: and they promiſed to pay him the remainder of the £20,000, if on further trials in the courſe of four years it ſhould ſtill be found to aſcertain the longitude within the required limits of exactneſs; during which time no other artiſt ſhould be permitted to compete with him in the ſame line of diſcovery. [*Act* 3 *Geo. III, c.* 14, *paſſed* 31*ſt March* 1763.] At different times thereafter Mr. Harriſon obtained payment of the remainder of the £20,000.

Time-keepers have ever ſince been made upon Mr. Harriſon's prin-

ciples with great ſucceſs, and alſo with improvements, by ſeveral watch-makers. The general uſe of them onboard the navy, the Eaſt-India ſhips, and many private merchant ſhips, has been productive of this important advantage to navigation, that a very great number of the preſent race of navigators are much better acquainted with the principles upon which the ſcience of navigation is founded, than their predeceſſors generally were, many of whom knew nothing further than merely how to uſe the inſtruments, apply the rules, and extract numbers from the tables, which men of ſcience had conſtructed for their uſe, without ever beſtowing a thought to inquire, why thoſe inſtruments, rules, and tables, were ſo conſtructed. To the uſe of time-keepers in the hands of men of ſcience we are alſo indebted for the great improvements lately made in the knowlege of currents in the ocean, whereof we may expect ſoon to poſſeſs accurate charts deſcribing their courſe and velocity as correctly as the ſoundings and ſet of the tide are marked in the preſent charts of harbours and bays. Thus does Harriſon's invention conſtitute a new and a ſplendid æra in the hiſtory of navigation.

The board of longitude alſo gave a premium of £500 to Doctor Irwin for his invention of a marine chair, which enables the navigator to obſerve the heavenly bodies during a ſtorm with as much ſteadineſs and certainty, as if he ſtood on firm ground.

In order to prevent the damages and thefts committed upon the ſhipping in the river Thames by people carrying on a petty trade upon the river in boats, commonly called bum-boats, all ſuch traders were ordered to be regiſtered, and ſubjected to regulations. The crime of cutting or damaging cables, cordages, buoys, &c. belonging to veſſels, was made puniſhable by tranſportation for ſeven years: and perſons convicted of buying goods ſtolen upon the river were ſubjected to puniſhment by tranſportation for fourteen years *. [2 *Geo. III, c.* 28.]

Rye in Suſſex, one of the antient port-towns, diſtinguiſhed by the name and privileges of the Cinque ports, had been ruined by the receſs of the ſea, and afterwards in the ſixteenth century in a great meaſure reſtored by two irruptions of the ſame element, which has ſo often made great revolutions in the ſtate of the ports on that coaſt. Theſe advantages were improved by a cut capable of carrying veſſels of above 300 tons as high as Winchelſea, which was now completed.

It is very agreeable to be able to record, that the ſucceſs of the Britiſh herring fiſhery on the coaſt of Shetland this year exceeded that of the Dutch, and that the Britiſh yaggers reached the firſt markets at

* Mr. Colquhoun, in his very uſeful *Treatiſe on the commerce of the river Thames*, *p.* 48, obſerves, that fourteen years elapſed after this act was paſſed, before any one of its proviſions was carried into effect.

Hamburgh and Bremen, though the number of Dutch veſſels, as uſual, greatly exceeded ours.

The whale fiſhing this year had very little ſucceſs.

From London	7	ſhips got	7 ſize-able fiſh and 11 very ſmall ones.
From Hull	2	ſhips -	0 fiſh.
Newcaſtle	4	-	1
Liverpool	2	-	1
Exeter	1	-	0
11 very ſmall.			
Engliſh ſhips	16	-	9 fiſh.

	ſhips.	ſizeable fiſh.
From Leith - -	1	4
Borrowſtounneſs	2	0
Anſtruther (1 ſhip loſt)	2	0
Dundee (2 very ſmall)	2	0
Dunbar -	3	3
Aberdeen -	1	1
Scottiſh ſhips -	14	5

And 154 Dutch ſhips got only 43 fiſh.

The Havanna, a place formed by nature and by art for a moſt ſpacious, ſecure, and, I might almoſt add, impregnable, harbour, the moſt important ſettlement belonging to the Spaniards in the weſtern hemiſphere, and the general center of all their commerce in that quarter of the world, was attacked by a formidable force under the command of Lord Albemarle and Admiral Pococke; and after a gallant and obſtinate defence of ten weeks, was ſurrendered, and with it a conſiderable diſtrict of Cuba, the largeſt iſland of the Weſt-Indies, on the 14th of Auguſt. By the capitulation, all the private property was ſecured to the inhabitants. But above twenty capital ſhips of war, moſt of them of the line, and all the money and merchandize belonging to the king of Spain, eſtimated at near three millions ſterling, fell into the hands of the conquerors. One conſequence of this important conqueſt was, that a very conſiderable trade was immediately opened with it, as will appear in the ſtatement of the imports and exports, for the ſhort time it continued in our hands: but the principal value of it was, that, as the loſs of it ſtruck at the very vitals of the commerce and revenue of Spain, it was very inſtrumental in reſtoring the bleſſings of peace.

Though the mere depredations of war do not properly belong to the hiſtory of commerce, yet a brief notice may be admitted of the capture of the Hermione, a Spaniſh regiſter ſhip, loaded with bullion and rich merchandize, which afterwards ſold for conſiderably above half a million ſterling, by two ſloops of war, as having contributed, with the treaſure brought from the Havanna, to increaſe the circulating money of the nation *.

* Of the prize-money, the admiral and two captains had each about £65,000, the commiſſioned officers about £13,000, the warrant officers about £4335, the petty officers about £1804, and the private men about £485 each. All were enriched who could take care of their money; and ſome of the petty officers, by retiring to their native places, and entering into the herring fiſhery, became men of conſequence, and chief magiſtrates of the towns.

It is ſcarcely worth while to obſerve, that the French took poſſeſſion of Newfoundland in June, and were driven from it in September this year. The temporary ſucceſs gave no advantage to the French, though conſiderable damage was thereby done to our fiſhermen.

The Portugueſe, who in the fifteenth century were the firſt maritime power in the world, had now declined ſo much from their antient pre-eminence, that about half a dozen ſhips of the line, and a few frigates compoſed their whole navy, when they were attacked by the united powers of France and Spain, in order to compell them to withdraw from their connection with Great Britain: and to that iſland, which in the days of their ſplendour ſcarcely poſſeſſed a ſhip of war, the Portugueſe now looked up for protection, and the preſervation of their national independence. After they recovered from the conſternation of the firſt attack, the natural ſtrength of the country, which, under the management of the great Viriathus, baffled the power of Rome, when in the zenith of her military glory, was judiciouſly taken advantage of to retard the progreſs of the invaders; and two ſurpriſes of the Spaniſh armies by General Burgoyne completed the deliverance of Portugal; after which a ſeaſonable fall of heavy rains put a ſtop to further hoſtilities, till they were more happily terminated by the concluſion of a general peace.

In the meantime an expedition, againſt the moſt important poſſeſſion of Spain in the eaſtern world, was undertaken at Madras under the command of General Draper and Admiral Corniſh, who with a ſmall force made an attack upon Manilla, the capital of fourteen valuable and important iſlands in the Indian ocean, ſubject to the crown of Spain, and the entrepot of a very limited, but very rich and lucrative, commerce with America, the Indian iſlands, China, Japan, &c. which, with all its dependencies, ſurrendered on the ſame day that the Britiſh forces completed the expulſion of the Spaniards from Portugal. The conquerors permitted the inhabitants to preſerve their property, and even their own government, on condition of paying a ranſom of a million of ſterling money. The ranſom, however, has never been paid; and they would have reaped nothing but barren laurels from their victory, if two frigates detached from the ſquadron had not taken a galleon, which had ſome time before ſailed from Manilla for Acapulco with a cargo valued at about half a million ſterling.

Thus in the courſe of a few ſhort months were the Spaniards bereaved of their moſt capital poſſeſſion in the Weſt-Indies, and of all their dominions in the Eaſt-Indies, upon which the whole ſyſtem of their commerce and revenue in the two hemiſpheres depended; their vaſt unweildy empire lay bleeding at every vein; and, for ſome time at leaſt, they might deſiſt from their empty boaſt, that the ſun never ſets in their dominions.

The immediate reſtoration of Manilla and the iſlands dependent on it, in conſequence of the peace, prevented the conqueſt of them from having any effect upon the Britiſh commerce. Neither could it have any influence upon the treaty of peace, which was concluded before the news of it reached Europe.

Notwithſtanding the flattering accounts given by Doctor Buſching of the great improvements in trade and manufactures effected in the Pruſſian dominions by the French, Swiſs, and German, refugees, we may venture to ſay, that trade was held in contempt, and conſequently very far from being in a flouriſhing condition, where a repreſentative of the ſovereign could iſſue the following proclamation.

Proclamation by the Pruſſian governor of Freyberg.

'Whereas I have been informed, that ſome of the inhabitants of 'Freyberg, and particularly certain merchants, have taken it into their 'heads to forge, and publiſh for true, reports to the diſadvantage of 'the arms of Pruſſia, I declare by theſe preſents, that the firſt who 'ſhall dare to utter one ſentence, either to the diſadvantage, or the 'advantage, of the Pruſſian arms, ſhall be taken up, and puniſhed as 'a ſpy.

'It is an indecency not to be ſuffered for burghers to preſume to 'talk of ſtate affairs, in which ſuch pitiful creatures can do neither 'good nor harm. But I ſhall certainly take rigorous methods to make 'an example in terrorem. Every burgher who favours the deſertion 'of any of my men, ſhall be treated as a deſerter himſelf. The ma-'giſtrates muſt take care to curb the burghers more vigilantly than 'they have hitherto done, otherways I ſhall make them accountable 'for all the malevolent reports which may be publiſhed, as it is their 'duty to watch over the conduct of the merchants as well as the other 'citizens. It belongs not to ſuch as they are to interfere in the affairs 'of war or peace, and much leſs in the good or bad ſucceſs of the bel-'ligerent powers.'

We have not, I believe, any ſpecimen of the contempt of trade among the antient Roman plunderers, that comes quite up to the ſpirit of this capital production of modern deſpotic inſolence. What would we think of a Britiſh officer, who ſhould preſume to ſpeak or write in ſuch a manner?

The preliminaries of peace were ſigned at Fontainbleau on the 3d of November, and the ratification was exchanged at Verſailles on the 22d, ſo that the war may be ſaid to be now at an end. It was ſtipulated, that all prizes taken ſix weeks after the ratification, beyond the Channel, in the Britiſh ſeas, in the North ſea, in the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic ocean, as far as the Canary iſlands, ſhould be reſtored on both

ſides; as ſhould alſo all veſſels taken three months after it beyond the Canaries as far as the Equinoctial line, and all thoſe taken ſix months after it in any part of the world beyond the Equinoctial line.

Soon after the publication of this happy intelligence, a free intercourſe with France by the packet was permitted.

Hithero the ſigns, and the gutters for conveying the rain water from the roofs of the houſes, had projected in a moſt unſeemly and incommodious manner into the ſtreets of London. But a law was now made for the removal of theſe nuiſances, and for affixing the names of the ſtreets on every corner, with a penalty of 40*s* on every one who ſhould efface any ſuch name. [3 *Geo. III, c.* 23] It is a pity, that this excellent regulation of civic police is not more ſtrictly enforced. Perhaps it is not aſſerting too much to ſay, that the convenience and eaſe proceeding from the names on the corners of the ſtreets, and the numbers on the doors of houſes, conſtitute one of the moſt eſſential differences between a great city inhabited by a well regulated and poliſhed people, and a great maſs of buildings poſſeſſed by a people only emerging from a ſtate of barbariſm.

The following particulars of the public expenditure of this year deſerve our attention, as being connected with the intereſts of commerce.

For the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia, -	£5684	1	10
For the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, -	4057	10	0
(Of which L1000 to be given in bounties for the cultivation of ſilk, as before.)			
Compenſation to North-American provinces for their expenſes in levying troops to oppoſe the French, -	133,333	6	8
Allowed to the Eaſt-India company, towards the expenſe of their military eſtabliſhment, - -	20,000	0	0
To the city of London for improving the bridge, -	15,000	0	0
For maintaining the Britiſh forts on the coaſt of Africa, - - - - - - -	13,000	0	0
To the Britiſh muſeum, - - -	2000	0	0
(This grant, with ſometimes a different ſum, is repeated every year.)			
For a bridge over the Tweed at Coldſtream, -	4000	0	0

The following is a retroſpect of the export trade of the old Eaſt-India company, extracted from accounts made up at various times by their own accountant.

In the year ending 29th September				British manufactures, &c. *	Foreign bullion † and goods.	Total.
1699	-	-	8 ships ‖	£40,674 11 0	£286,720 8 8	£327,394 19 8‡
1700	-	-	10 ——	60,028 7 0	280,042 15 8	340,071 2 8
1701	-	-	14 ——	75,527 19 9	438,610 4 0	514,138 3 9

And the following retroſpect ſhews the exports of the preſent company; and is in like manner compiled from the returns of their acountants.

		British manufactures, ſtores, &c.	Bullion.	Total.
Average of 10 years, ending 29th September - - -	1724	£99,410 12 10	£518,102 11 0	£617,513 3 10
of 9 years ending in -	1733	105,699 16 5	510,131 17 0	615,831 13 5
of 8 years ending in -	1741	157,944 4 7	476,852 2 9	634,796 7 4
of 7 years ending in -	1748	188,176 16 2	548,711 19 2	736,888 15 4
of 3 years ending in -	1751	165,757 3 2	605,376 18 0	771,134 1 2
of 3 years ending in -	1755	340,917 19 11	815,514 7 7	1,156,432 7 6
1 year ending September -	1756	226,131 1 3	620,378 16 8	846,509 17 11
	1757	314,947 4 11	795,007 18 11	1,109,955 3 10
	1758	285,070 13 10	456,252 13 3	741,323 7 1
	1759	327,332 7 6	172,604 8 0	499,936 15 6
	1760	334,416 6 6	142,922 8 0	477,338 14 6

It was obſerved by Mr. James, the ſecretary of the Eaſt-India company, that in the four years ending with 29th September 1762 the quantity of bullion, exported by the company, fell ſhort of what was exported in the four years ending with the 29th September 1758, £2,106,780 : 8 : 1, while the amount of woollen manufactures exported, exceeded that of the preceding four years by £386,625 : 2 : 11, and that there was alſo a great increaſe in the laſt four years of the quantity of copper ſhipped, the exceſs of that article, which is a new branch of the Eaſt-India trade, being £108,521 : 10 : 2.

* The cuſtoms and other charges are included in the coſt of the goods.

† The bullion conſiſted chiefly of Spaniſh dollars, rated at 5/ ſterling; the goods conſiſted of foreign ſtationary ware, wine, medicines, &c.

‡ Part of the exports of 1699 were for the uſe of an embaſſy, for which the company alſo ſhipped onboard his Majeſty's ſhip Harwich goods and money to the amount of £5,559 : 14 : 11.

‖ The ſhips were conſigned as follows:

	Coromandel.	Bengal.	Coromandel and Bengal.	Surat.	China.	Limpo in China.	Canton in China.	Amoy in China.	Limpo and Borneo.	Borneo.	Moco.
1699	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
1700	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	0
1701	3	2	0	2	0	1	3	1	0	1	1

The increaſe of the woollen manufactures and the copper he aſcribes to the interruption of the French trade in India during the war, as well as to the conſtant endeavours of the company, to ſend out as large proportions of the manufactures and produce of Great Britain as poſſible, in preference to gold and bullion.

He further accounts for the decreaſe of bullion in the laſt four years, partly by the great ſums paid to the company by the country princes in purſuance of treaties, but chiefly by the larger ſums paid into the company's treaſuries by individuals, who had acquired fortunes, which they wiſhed to remit home by bills of exchange on the company in England.

In the year 1761 the Hudſon's-bay company, induced by the general opinion, that the opening, called Chefterfield inlet, afforded a conſiderable proſpect of a paſſage into the Pacific ocean, diſpatched a ſloop under the command of Captain Chriſtopher to explore it. On his return he reported, that he had navigated the inlet for more than 150 miles in a weſterly direction, till he found the water perfectly freſh, but that he had not explored the head of it.

In order to put an end to every doubt, he was again ſent, in company with Mr. Norton, this year, with orders to trace it to its ſource, if practicable. They found that the freſh-water river was the outlet of a lake, which was 24 miles long, and 6 or 7 broad, and that a river flowed into the lake from the weſt, which they alſo explored in boats, till their further progreſs was prevented by falls. So it was aſcertained that no paſſage was to be found in that direction *.

A proof of the increaſe of inhabitants, and of the commercial proſperity of London may be drawn from the quantity of coals imported which amounted this year to 570,774 chaldrons; almoſt double the quantity of the annual importation in the early part of this century.

The following account of the exports of South-Carolina may be uſeful for comparing the progreſſive proſperity of that province.

		From November 1760 to September 1761.	From 23d December 1761 to 1st September 1762.
Rice -	barrels	100,000	62,288
Indigo -	pounds	399,366	249,000
Pitch - -	barrels	6,376	3,110
Tar - -	———	931	1,119
Turpentine -	———	4,808	751
Roſin -	———		19
Oranges (beſides 161,000 looſe ones in 1761)	———	144	4

* The account of theſe two voyages, which have eſcaped the reſearches of Forſter, the author of the *Hiſtory of voyages and diſcoveries in the North*, is extracted from *Goldſon's Obſervations on the paſſage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.*

	From November 1760 to September 1761.	From 23d December, 1761 to 1st September 1762.
Pork and beef (almoſt all pork) - barrels	1,149	2,296
Bacon - ———	13	1,648 lb.
Hams - - ———		5
Fiſh - - ———		41
Indian corn and peas (moſtly corn) buſhels	11,126	27,174
Oats - - ———		388
Deer ſkins in hogſheads, in caſks, in bundles, and looſe - - -	422 h. 331 b. 300 l.	331 h. 12 c. 215 b. 1043 l.
Tanned leather - ſides	5,869	2,693
Bees-wax - pounds	6,721	6 caſks
Myrtle-wax candles boxes		14
Staves - - pieces	236,850	157,880
Hoops - ———	29,600	14,500
Shingles - ———	522,167	674,750
Timber, boards, &c. feet	466,186	103,293
Laths - pieces		3,500
Reeds - ———		400
Handſpikes - ———		360
Furs in hogſheads, barrels, and bundles -		1 h. 2 bar. 1 bund.
Pink-root - caſk		1
Potatoes - buſhels		20
Soap - - boxes		100
Tallow - barrels		32
Butter - - kegs		80
Tobacco - hogſheads		14

The following articles were exported from Georgia from 5th January 1762 to 5th January 1763.

Rice in barrels and half barrels - -	7440 b. 119 h. b.
Rough rice (i. e. with the huſk on) buſhels	776
Indigo - - - - pounds	9,633
Tar - - - - - barrels	246
Pork - - - - - ———	292
Beef - - - - - - - ———	38
Indian corn - - - buſhels	1250
Deer ſkins in hogſheads and bundles - -	96 h. 832 b.
Beaver ſkins - - - - bundles	13
Tanned leather - - - ſides	1,602

Staves and heading	pieces	359,002
Hoops		10,500
Shingles		688,045
Pine timber	feet	417,449
Handſpikes	pieces	1,050
Bars		2,033

It is to be obſerved, that in theſe colonies the manufacture of lumber, comprehending timber, ſtaves, ſhingles, &c. and alſo pitch, tar, and other commodities procured from trees, the natural growth of the ſoil, was merely a part of the proceſs of clearing the ground; and the compariſon of the exports of South-Carolina for only theſe two years ſhews, that a conſiderable quantity of ground was cleared in 1762, which was in a ſtate of nature in 1761 in that province.

The oranges exported from Carolina are of a kind called bitter-ſweet, very different from the ſweet kind, which we call China oranges. The later kind are carried to Carolina from the Weſt-India iſlands.

Georgia was yet in its infancy; and the whole goods imported from it to Great Britain this year, were not equal in value to the quantity of cotton, a new and moſt valuable article of its produce, which ſometimes comes now (1799) in one conſignment to a ſingle merchant in the city connected with that country.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1761 to Chriſtmas 1762 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£30,540 16 3		£273,127 18 7	
Canaries	1,912 19 0		370 0 9	
Denmark and Norway	70,474 16 1	£25,911 0 10	142,052 9 8	£16,860 8 3
East Country	105,373 8 10		298,776 6 2	
East-India	972,838 11 7		1,007,353 13 0	
Flanders	25,252 1 11		360,462 6 10	3,120 17 11
France	12 2 7		171,535 18 10	160,754 8 4
Germany	516,489 9 0	9,621 7 2	2,435,106 5 3	90,057 0 2
Greenland	4,217 11 8		17 3 1	
Holland	493,944 14 2	84,887 4 1	2,107,957 16 11	321,060 19 7
Ireland	889,368 6 10	115,358 10 1	1,528,093 6 10	153,462 14 1
Iceland		12 14 4		21 2 6
Mann		2 0 0		1,866 15 9
Italy	508,951 14 5		509,517 13 10	3,577 10 0
Madeira	3,729 19 7		43,232 6 5	216 5 0
Poland		11,412 2 1		2,115 6 4
Prussia		3,460 12 6		
Portugal	359,127 14 8	6,274 1 1	908,729 2 9	165 5 0
Ruſſia	627,451 19 1	51,163 11 0	61,509 19 8	326 2 6
Spain	131,279 7 1	472 6 7	139,580 19 5	1,354 18 9
Straits	11,876 17 10		58,964 12 9	
Sweden	201,160 3 0	22,315 16 9	17,507 13 7	5,068 14 2
Turkey	71,761 9 9		63,738 19 5	
Venice	9,916 0 8		32,246 18 5	

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Guernsey, &c.	£ 127,682 1 2	£2,924 8 4	£44,481 11 11	£25 5 0
Belle-isle	715 3 0		21,625 7 9	
America in general		326,347 17 11		169,962 9 9
Hudson's bay	12,119 14 5		4,122 2 9	
Newfoundland	23,436 8 11		35,387 13 1	
Quebec	32,079 9 6		148,478 4 2	
Nova Scotia	1,144 6 5		25,071 2 4	
New-England	41,733 17 6		247,385 18 3	
New-York	58,882 6 5		288,046 16 10	
Pennsylvania	38,091 2 2		206,199 18 8	
Virginia and Maryland	415,709 10 9		417,599 15 6	
Carolina	181,695 10 3		194,170 14 1	
Georgia	6,522 17 7		23,761 8 10	
West-Indies in general		48,761 16 7		68,149 2 8
Antigua	249,367 0 9		125,323 9 0	
Barbados	254,860 17 6		213,177 4 5	
Bermuda	988 15 0		7,786 7 0	
Grenada	26,560 16 9		119 6 1	
Guadaloupe	513,244 9 9		170,226 9 1	
Havanna			116,777 9 11	
Jamaica	852,777 14 0		460,631 16 0	
Martinique	288,425 8 8		166,196 2 5	
Montserrat	57,122 6 0		23,895 9 11	
Nevis	42,095 3 8		9,066 6 3	
New-Providence	1,902 7 3			
St. Croix	4,464 4 10		6,254 6 9	
St. Christophers	246,360 16 0		102,627 2 10	
St. Thomas			525 16 5	
Tortola	33,265 3 6		2,052 0 1	
Monte Christi	20,487 8 0			
British and Irish linens exported on bounty to various countries			29,331 19 9	
Prize goods	302,819 10 0		235,364 8 9	
Imp. and exp. of England	8,870,234 14 3		13,545,171 1 0	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	708,925 9 4	708,925 9 4	998,165 5 9	998,165 5 9
Total, Great Britain,	9,579,160 3 7		14,543,336 6 9	

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	5915	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	402,740 tuns.
and of Scotland	964	- - -	53,046
Total	6879		455,786

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half per cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London, - £1,854,217 0 8
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh - 4,200 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain £1,858,417 0 8

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

11,850 pounds of gold, value - - -	£553,691	5	0
and 1,020 pounds of ſilver - - - -	3,162	0	0
	£556,853	5	0

1763.—The definitive treaty of peace was concluded at Paris on the 10th of February; and it was proclaimed with the uſual ſolemnities at London on the 22d of March, and in all other parts of the Britiſh dominions as ſoon as the proclamation arrived at them.

By this treaty

Article IV) France ceded to Great Britain Nova-Scotia (or Acadia) with all its dependencies, Canada with all its dependencies, Cape Breton, and all the iſlands in the gulf of St. Laurence; the French inhabitants having their option to remain and become Britiſh ſubjects, with liberty to enjoy their own religion, 'as far as the laws of Great Britain permit,' or to ſell their eſtates to Britiſh ſubjects, ſettle their affairs, and depart with their moveable property within eighteen months, to be computed from the ratification of the treaty.

V) The French had liberty to fiſh and to dry their fiſh on a part of the coaſt of Newfoundland, as ſpecified in the 13th article of the treaty of Utrecht, and to fiſh in the Gulf of St. Laurence at the diſtance of at leaſt three leagues from all the coaſts and iſlands belonging to Great Britain, and in the ſea adjacent to Cape Breton, which iſland they were not to approach within fifteen leagues; the fiſhery on the coaſt of Nova-Scotia and other places not adjacent to the Gulf of St. Laurence remaining as ſettled in former treaties.

VI) The iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, (near Newfoundland) were ceded to the French for a ſhelter to their fiſhermen, with an expreſs engagement, however, that no fortifications ſhould be erected, nor any military force be ſtationed on them, except a guard of fifty men, merely for the police.

VII) In order to prevent all diſputes concerning boundaries, a line, drawn through the middle of the river Miſſiſippi, from its ſource down to the branch, or mouth, of it called the Iberville, and through the middle of that branch and the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the ſea, was declared to be the fixed and irrevocable limit, the port of Mobile with all the country on the eaſt ſide belonging to Great Britain, and New Orleans with its iſland and the country on the weſt ſide belonging to France; the navigation of the Miſſiſippi being perfectly free to both nations from its ſource to the ſea, notwithſtanding that both its banks near its mouth are in the territory reſerved to France.

VIII) The iſlands of Guadaloupe, Marie-galante, Deſirade, and Martinique, in the Weſt-Indies, and Belle-iſle near the coaſt of France were reſtored to France, the Britiſh ſubjects ſettled in them having eighteen

months allowed them to wind up their affairs and ſell or remove their property; for which purpoſe Britiſh veſſels, not exceeding a limited number and tunnage, were permitted to make one voyage each to thoſe iſlands under certain ſtipulated regulations.

IX) The iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines were ceded to Great Britain, with the ſame ſtipulations in favour of the inhabitants* reſpecting their religion and property, that were provided for thoſe of Canada by the fourth article. Of the neutral iſlands, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago, were ceded in full right to Great Britain, and St. Lucia to France.

X) On the coaſt of Africa Goree was reſtored to France: and the river Senegal with all its rights and dependencies, together with the forts and factories of St. Louis, Podor, and Galam, were ceded to Great Britain.

XI) In the Eaſt Indies Great Britain reſtored to the French the factories they poſſeſſed at the beginning of the year 1749 in Coromandel, Orixa, Malabar, and Bengal, they renouncing all pretenſions to any places in Coromandel and Orixa acquired ſince 1749, and reſtoring all places taken from Great Britain in the preſent war, and eſpecially Natall and Tapanoully (or Bencoolen) in the iſland of Sumatra, and engaging to eſtabliſh no forts or garriſons in Bengal.

XII) France reſtored the iſland of Minorca to Great Britain.

XVII) The king of Great Britain engaged to deſtroy the fortifications erected in the Bay of Honduras and other Spaniſh territories in America; the king of Spain engaging that the ſubjects of Great Britain ſhould not be moleſted in cutting or ſhipping logwood.

XVIII) Spain, having no conqueſts to reſtore, yet deſirous of appearing to concede ſomething, gave up a claim, ſaid to be made by the people of Guipuſcoa, to a right of fiſhing in the neighbourhood of Newfoundland *.

XIX) Great Britain reſtored to Spain the Havanna with the annexed large diſtrict of the iſland of Cuba, the Britiſh ſettlers having eighteen months allowed to prepare for their departure on the ſame terms agreed on for the evacuation of the iſlands ceded to France by the eighth article.

XX) Spain ceded to Great Britain Florida, comprehending all the country between the river Miſſiſippi and the Britiſh province of Georgia, except the town and iſland of New Orleans belonging to France, the inhabitants being allowed to remain and enjoy their religion, or retire in eighteen months, as ſtipulated for the French Canadians by the fourth article.

The other articles of the treaty relate to arrangements on the conti-

* Such a claim had been mentioned in the treaty of the year 1713, when it was allowed to lie over unexplained.

nent of Europe, the deciſion of diſputes reſpecting prize ſhips, the time fixed for executing the ſeveral ceſſions of territory, &c.

The peace, though it was differently received by the different parties, who, in all free governments, take oppoſite ſides upon every queſtion of great importance, muſt be allowed to have been very advantageous to Great Britain, in ſo far as it completely accompliſhed the object, for which the war was profeſſedly undertaken, the perfect ſecurity of the Britiſh colonies in North America from the encroachments of the French; who, as well as the Spaniards, were now far removed from their neighbourhood, and from any power, or opportunity, of giving them the ſmalleſt uneaſineſs on the ſubject of diſputable frontiers. Though many iſlands taken from the enemy in the Weſt-Indies were reſtored, yet Great Britain retained at the peace a number of newly-acquired iſlands; perhaps more than the population and capital of the mother country were capable to people and cultivate immediately without ſome inconvenience. The arrangements in Aſia were very favourable to our Eaſt-India company. And in Africa we obtained the excluſive trade in gum ſenegal, an article of great uſe in many manufactures: nor was the increaſed demand, which the ſettlement of the new tropical territories would occaſion for negro ſlaves, neglected by the advocates for the terms of the peace, in enumerating the advantages reſulting from it.

Beſides, it ought to be remembered, that, though Great Britain was enabled by a progreſſive increaſe of commerce, even during the heavieſt preſſure of hoſtilities, to carry on the war at an expenſe, which, not very many years before, it would have been ſuppoſed utterly impoſſible to ſupport, and in a triumphant manner, which to a nation of mere warriors, ſuch as the antient Romans, might have been even lucrative, yet neither the ſupplies of men nor money could hold out forever. A peace was therefor neceſſary, that the ſtrength and reſources of the nation might be allowed to recruit, independent of the intereſts of humanity, and, I may add, of commerce, which required that the world ſhould repoſe from the toils of war, and the horrors of ſlaughter and devaſtation.

The lieutenants of the navy made a propoſition to the lords of the admiralty for keeping in employment two hundred and fifty of the frigates and armed ſhips, to be commanded and manned by 1500 officers of the navy and 17,500 ſeamen, to be paid by the government, and to be ſent upon the whale fiſhery at Greenland and Davis's ſtraits. Eſtimating by the profits made by the Dutch in that fiſhery, they calculated the profit to the nation at £100,000 yearly, beſides the advantage of keeping up a nurſery of ſeamen, and having ſo many hands actually in the ſervice of government ready upon any emergency, without diſtreſſing the merchant ſervice. The project, however, was not approved of;

and it may be doubted, whether the additional number of whales caught could be in proportion to ſo great an additional number of ſhips going in queſt of them, or, if they ſhould be caught, whether there would be conſumption for the oil, &c. The arithmetical rule of three is not in all caſes infallible.

The empreſs of Ruſſia publiſhed an edict inviting foreigners of all nations and religions, except Jews, to ſettle in any part of her empire, with perfect liberty of conſcience, and even a permiſſion to be governed by laws framed by themſelves. She moreover promiſed them money and materials for building, and for carrying on trades, with an exemption from taxes for a certain number of years. Such encouragement to induſtrious ſtrangers, if perſevered in, would ſoon civilize and enrich that vaſt empire.

Though petty acts of piracy are frequently committed, there are few inſtances, in the preſent improved ſtate of maritime power, of any veſſels cruiſing as profeſſed pirates to make war upon all nations indiſcriminately. About this time, however, ſome ſuch, manned with gangs of ruffians of all nations, made their appearance in the Weſt-Indies; but they were ſoon ſuppreſſed. This pirating was a dreg of the war.

Some conſiderable improvements were made in the methods of extracting water from mines, coal-pits, &c. One was by a large cylinder of iron meaſuring 74 inches in the bore, made at the foundery at Coalbrook dale in Shropſhire, which enables the fire-engine to deliver 307 hundred-weight of water at every ſtroke. Another was by a new engine working with horizontal wind ſails, capable of raiſing to the height of thirty feet from eight to twenty hogſheads of water, according to the force of the wind, at every ſtroke. About the ſame time a ſaw-mill was invented, which could work either by wind or water, for which the ſociety for the encouragement of arts and commerce gave a premium of an hundred guineas to Mr. Stansfield of Bingley.

March 24th—The law for the regulation of the price of bread by the magiſtrates was extended to Scotland. [3 *Geo. III, c.* 6.]

The outſtanding debts of the navy, the victualling and tranſport bills, and ordnance debentures, amounting to £3,670,739 : 2 : 8 were funded, with an annual intereſt of four per cent, payable at the bank, to be reckoned from the 25th of March 1763. [3 *Geo. III, c.* 9.]

There were other unſettled claims upon the public for the expenſes of the war, for the ſatisfaction of which other ſupplies were neceſſary. Therefor, beſides drawing £2,000,000 from the ſinking fund, and iſſuing £1,800,000 in exchequer bills, it was reſolved to raiſe money by a loan and two lotteries. The loan was for £2,800,000 bearing intereſt at four per cent from 5th April 1763, the ſubſcribers moreover receiving, as a douceur, a lottery ticket at the price of £10 for every £100 ſubſcribed. The lotteries were for £350,000 each, both to be drawn

in the year 1763, the prizes in which (being nearly the ſame as in the laſt lottery) were to be ſtock bearing four per cent intereſt, and the blanks were to be rated at £5; that is to ſay, they were entitled to an annual income of four ſhillings each.

March 31ſt—In order to provide for the intereſt of the new funded debts, an additional duty of £8 per tun was laid on French wine and vinegar, and £4 per tun on all other wine and vinegar, payable upon importation; alſo £2 per tun on foreign cyder and perry imported, and four ſhillings per hogſhead on cyder and perry made in Great Britain. [3 *Geo. III, c.* 12.]

As ſoon as the propoſal for laying a duty of exciſe upon cyder and perry was publicly known, an outcry was raiſed againſt it, which was more violent, and more general, than any ſimilar exploſion of diſcontent ſince the year 1733, when a great miniſter was on the point of falling a ſacrifice to an exciſe ſcheme. The tax was reprobated as partial and oppreſſive, laying the burthens of the whole nation upon that part of the country where thoſe liquors were uſed, and groſsly violating the liberty of the people, by ſubjecting their houſes to the viſitation and ſearch of revenue officers. The clamour, though vehemently ſupported by the city of London, however, died away, and the tax took place. It muſt be acknowleged, that the drinkers of cyder and perry ought to contribute to the national expenditure, as well as the drinkers of malt liquor; and if they had hitherto been indulged or overlooked, that was no good reaſon for a continuance of the exemption. After all, the duty was lighter than that on malt liquor; private perſons, upon paying a compoſition according to the number of their families, were exempted from the viſitation of the exciſe officers; and occupiers of houſes rated not above forty ſhillings a year to the land tax, or making not above four hogſheads in the year, were entirely exempted from paying any duty: ſo that it was upon the whole probably as unexceptionable as any exciſe duty can poſſibly be.

As an inſtance of the opulence and liberality of the Eaſt, we may briefly notice the will of Omichund, an eminent black merchant at Calcutta, wherein legacies were bequeathed to charitable inſtitutions in many different parts of the world, and among the reſt conſiderably above £5000 to the Magdalen and Foundling hoſpitals of London, which money was actually remitted by his executor.

The encouragement for indigo produced in the Britiſh plantations, was continued till the 25th of March 1770, and thence to the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament; but the bounty was now reduced to four pence a pound, to commence from the expiration of the time limited for the former bounty.

So much were the Venetians now reduced from their antient dominion in the Mediterranean ſea, that they paid down 50,000 ducats, and

moreover agreed to pay 5000 more every year, to the Algerines, for permitting *only fifteen* Venetian ſhips to trade freely in the Mediterranean. Theſe fifteen ſhips muſt carry on a very great, and a very lucrative trade, to enable them to pay ſo heavy a tribute *.

The Genoeſe, the antient rivals of the Venetians in commerce and maritime power, were alſo ſo much ſunk from their former condition, that they were not able to keep the iſland, (or, as they affected to call it, their kingdom) of Corſica in ſubjection, the conſequence of which was, that they made over their title in the ſovereignty of it to France. The event, which is foreign to the plan of this work, is ſufficiently known.

The lords of trade and plantations, in their report to the king upon the advantages to be derived from the territories veſted in Great Britain by the peace, obſerved, that hitherto the Britiſh fiſhermen had been excluded from the fiſhery of the River St. Laurence, and of the coaſts and iſlands of the Gulf of St. Laurence, by the treaty of Utrecht, which gave the French the ſole right to that moſt valuable fiſhery called by them the 'peche ſedentaire' (ſedentary fiſhery): but that, ſince theſe coaſts had fallen into our hands by the reduction of Quebec, the capture of whales, ſea-cows, ſeals, &c. was already carried on by Britiſh ſubjects to a greater extent than it ever was by the French; and the extenſive trade with the Eſkimeaux Indians for oil and furs, hitherto enjoyed by the French, muſt now fall into our hands by the annexation of Labrador to the government of Newfoundland. The iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, reſerved to France by the treaty, being deſtitute of wood and water, and incapable of raiſing proviſions, could never enable the French to carry on a proſperous fiſhery; but they might be the ſeat of a moſt pernicious contraband trade, if not watched with the utmoſt vigilance. The fur trade, if we except that of the Hudſon's-bay company, and ſome ſkin trade in the provinces of New-York and Carolina, had hitherto been almoſt engroſſed by the French, who, contrary to the ſtipulations of the treaty of Utrecht, took poſſeſſion of all the great lakes communicating with the River St. Laurence, whereby all intercourſe between the Indian tribes and the Britiſh provinces was cut off. By the total ceſſion of North America the whole of this trade muſt now be free to the ſubjects of Great Britain, who being relieved from the interruptions of the French and the French Indians, would undoubtedly carry the trade to an extent hitherto unknown, whereby a demand muſt be created for vaſt quantities of Britiſh manufactures to be exchanged

* From Chandler's Travels I find, that in the Mediterranean the Venetian veſſels are generally remarked and ridiculed for their ſlow ſailing; and of courſe they muſt fall a ſacrifice to every hoſtile veſſel of ſufficient force, that can get ſight of them. Surely nautical ſcience muſt have remained ſtationary among the Venetians, who about 600 years ago were the greateſt maritime power in Europe, while other nations, who then had ſcarcely any ſhipping, have been continually improving in it.

with the Indians for their furs and ſkins *. Another great advantage, to be derived from thoſe territories, is the prodigious ſtores of wood in the northern regions fit for maſts to the royal navy, and for boards, ſtaves, &c. ſo neceſſary in the ſugar colonies.

Florida, the new-acquired province in the ſouthern part of North America, was repreſented as capable of producing indigo, ſilk, and many of the tropical productions.

The new-acquired iſlands in the Weſt-Indies promiſed a great increaſe of ſugar, coffee, cotton, and other tropical produce, of which our old-ſettled iſlands ſcarcely afford a ſufficiency for our own increaſing conſumption.

The advantage pointed out, as the reſult of our acquiſition on the coaſt of Africa, was the ſecurity of the gum trade from the monopoly of it, which was lately in the hands of the French by their poſſeſſion of the River Senegal.

Such, according to the obſervations of their lordſhips, were the obvious advantages to be expected from the territories ceded to Great Britain by the definitive treaty of peace, which could only be ſecured by an immediate eſtabliſhment of regular governments with ſufficient ſtrength to encourage new ſettlers, and to protect the former inhabitants in the enjoyment of the rights and privileges reſerved to them by the treaty.

That part of the report, which reſpects the fiſhery in the Gulf of St. Laurence, was confirmed by the ſucceſs of the New-England whale-fiſhers, who in the year 1761 employed in it ten veſſels of about 100 tuns, in 1762 fifteen, and in 1763 above eighty veſſels; whereupon the increaſe of the quantity of whale-bone imported from New-England to Britain reduced the price of that article from £500 to £350 a tun.

An improved method of curing ſalmon with ſpices was diſcovered by Mr. Alexander Cockburn, fiſhmonger in Berwick, for which he obtained a patent.

So eager are the Dutch for a regale of herrings at the beginning of the ſeaſon, that two barrels were ſold at 570 gilders (£52 ſterling), and 12¾ were ſold at 460 gilders (about £42), being a parcel diſpatched from Shetland at the beginning of the fiſhery. It is well worth their while to ſend off ſo ſmall a cargo, to be ſold for above 600 guineas; but the prices, it ſeems, are not every year quite ſo high.

About the end of July ſeveral merchants in Amſterdam failed for large ſums, and their failure was followed by the bankruptcy of a much greater number of others in Hamburgh, and ſome of the other principal trading towns in Germany, which for ſome time put almoſt an entire ſtop to all buſineſs, no one being willing to deliver any goods but

* The reader will be enabled to judge of the extent of the fur trade of Canada from the accounts of it to be given under the years 1766 and 1787.

for ready money. Many more merchants, who were in good circumſtances, would have been obliged to ſtop payment, if the Lombard houſes in Amſterdam and Hamburgh had not aſſiſted them with large advances of caſh, and if the magiſtrates had not wiſely interfered, by protecting from arreſt the merchants who could make it appear by their books, that they really poſſeſſed ſufficient funds for the diſcharge of their debts. On this trying occaſion the Britiſh merchants acted with the moſt honourable liberality, by giving larger credits to their correſpondents in the hour of their diſtreſs, than they had ever done in the ſeaſon of their proſperity, and even ſending large remittances for their ſupport, which they were enabled to do, by the no-leſs-liberal determination of the bank of England, and the principal bankers, to ſuſpend the payment of their own bills. Theſe generous meaſures ſo far reſtored public credit, that in a few weeks buſineſs went on nearly as before.

The failures were by ſome aſcribed to the large ſums owing by the Britiſh and French armies, and by others to the vaſt quantity of baſe money iſſued by the German princes during the war, for which the merchants had expected to receive the value, or at leaſt a conſiderable part of the value, it was iſſued for. It is reaſonable to believe, that both theſe cauſes co-operated, and that even the peace, by ſuddenly drawing off the trade enjoyed by thoſe neutral places during the war, might be inſtrumental in producing a derangement in the affairs of thoſe concerned in it.

The king of Pruſſia, in order to encourage manufactures in his electoral dominions, prohibited the importation of ſilks, chintzes, and cottons, and even went ſo far as to order all ſuch goods already in the country to be exported, under a penalty of 100 crowns for every ell. If his own people were able to ſupply the demand, ſuch regulations were not impolitic, though the later part was ſurely too harſh.

The expulſion of the French from North America was not productive of that perfect tranquillity that was expected. The Indians, eſpecially thoſe who had been in the French intereſt, and whom our people ſeem to have neglected and deſpiſed, more than was conſiſtent either with humanity or good policy, were greatly alarmed at the chain of garriſons eſtabliſhed in their country, the intention of which they apprehended to be no leſs than the extirpation of the antient poſſeſſors. In conſequence of this apprehenſion, a very extenſive confederacy was formed among them; and the back ſettlements of Pennſylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, were attacked at the time of harveſt with an unanimity and effect, of which Indians were not ſuppoſed capable. In ſeveral engagements our leaders were abſolutely out-generalled by the Indian chiefs; and, though at the end of the campaign they were rather checked, we had no reaſon to boaſt of our ſucceſs. All the itinerant traders, who, ſuppoſing themſelves perfectly ſecure, were diſperſed

through the Indian country, were murdered, and their property ſeized, to the amount, it is ſaid, of ſeveral hundred thouſand pounds; the loſs of which fell heavy on the principal trading towns in America, and, no doubt, alſo on their correſpondents in Britain.

It is worthy of notice in this work, that a happy expedient was hit upon for making a ſhip ride eaſy in a ſtorm at ſea, which was effected by launching overboard a ſpare boom made faſt to the end of a hauſer. This kind of floating anchor was found to act alſo as a weather ſhore in ſcreening the ſhip, which fell to leeward of it, and rode with her head to the wind, from the fury of the ſea, after her main maſt was cut away. To a negro ſeamen the world is indebted for the diſcovery of this improvement, which is now commonly, and ſucceſsfully, practiſed.

The merchants of Liverpool concerned in the exportation of rock-ſalt to the Auſtrian Netherlands, and the proprietors of the ſalt mines in the neighbourhood of that town, were greatly alarmed by the Auſtrian government reviving the old duties, amounting to a prohibition, upon Britiſh ſalt; in conſequence of which many large orders for that commodity were this year countermanded, whereby great confuſion and damage were brought upon the trade; and the proprietors of the ſalt mines, with the great body of people depending upon them, were very much diſtreſſed.

In a memorial to the lords of trade they repreſented, that the exportation of rock-ſalt from Liverpool to the Auſtrian Netherlands commenced in the year 1756, when only 30 tuns were ſent; that it had increaſed ever ſince, and that in the year ending with the 5th April 1763, there were ſhipped 6979 tuns; that the promiſing appearance of the trade had induced the proprietors of the mines to lay out great ſums in ſinking new pits, building ſtore-houſes, and barges fit for the conveyance of the ſalt to Liverpool by an inland navigation of near forty miles; that this new trade had brought along with it a conſiderable exportation of the produce of the Britiſh colonies, and of lead and lead ore, which have all been paid for with ready money; and in this point of view, and as a fund of employment in a temporate climate, for about 7000 ſeamen, including the barge-men on the inland navigation, and as being, moreover, ſo much deducted from the commerce of the French, our rivals for trade and power, this trade may deſerve to be valued as, perhaps, ſuperior to a Weſt-India colony.

It ought, however, to be obſerved, that this trade was begun by Mr. Ryngaut, a citizen of Ghent, as an appendage to the tobacco trade, which was his chief object, becauſe he wanted ballaſt for the ſhips he was obliged to charter, for carrying his tobacco from Liverpool to Oſtend.

Fort-Louis, on the River Senegal, with its dependencies, being delivered by government into the management of the committee of mer-

chants trading to Africa, they appointed a governor to take charge of it, whofe duty it was to aſſiſt every Britiſh trader within the extent of his influence to the utmoſt of his power, it being the intention of the legiſlature, that all Britiſh ſubjects ſhould have a free trade upon that coaſt, according to certain regulations.

The committee of African merchants complained, that the funds allowed by parliament were not near ſufficient to repair the various forts, which were all left in ruinous condition by the late royal African company.

If the great advantages that commerce, and moſt probably Britiſh commerce, will, in ſome future day, derive from a knowlege of the interior regions of Africa, are conſidered, no apology will be required for inſerting the following

Abridgement of the account of the River Senegal and the adjacent country, from a letter written by Mr. Barnes, governor of Fort-Louis, to the committee of merchants trading to Africa.

The River Senegal has ſufficient depth of water for veſſels drawing nine feet, for 86 leagues from its mouth. The beſt time for going up is the beginning of July, and the voyage takes up from five to eight weeks. The end of October is the beſt time for the downward paſſage, which is generally performed in three or four weeks.

At the head of the River Senegal there is a ridge of mountains, beyond which, according to the natives, there is a great river, like the Senegal, called the Black river *, which runs eaſtward into a great lake, around which there are ſettlements of white people †, who have a num-

* Neel il Abeed (the river of the black people), and Neel il Kibeer (the great river), are the indigenous names of this river, the courſe of which has ſo long puzzled geographers. Neel or Nil ſignifies ſimply *river*, and is a very proper name for the one river of Egypt.

† It would be too romantic to hope, that this civilized white nation may be found to be the offſpring of a remainder of the Carthaginians. If they ſhould be really Carthaginians, and ſtill retain the literature and ſcience of their anceſtors, what a bright ſtream of illumination might an acquaintance with them throw upon an intereſting portion of antient hiſtory, which is ſo miſerably defective, from our having heard only one ſide of the ſtory. It is worthy of obſervation, that (according to the information received from a negro trader in the upper parts of the Gambia, by a gentleman of veracity and information, formerly employed by the African company, and communicated by Captain Blankett of the navy to the committee of the privy council, when engaged in the conſideration of the ſlave trade,) 'The language ſpoken by the white men (who are ſuppoſed to be Arabs) of Tombuto and Banbara [or Bambarina], has no affinity with the Arabic or Turkiſh.' Surely their language having no affinity with the Arabic is no reaſon for ſuppoſing them to be Arabs.

Though Mr. Park's travels in the interior part of Africa did not extend to the great lake, mentioned by Mr. Barnes, nor do any of the converſations he had with the negroes on the banks of the Niger, Neel-ill-Abeed, or Joliba, ſeem to encourage us to hope for any knowlege of ſuch a white nation on the banks of the great lake; yet the agreement of Mr. Barnes's information with that obtained by Captain Blankett's friend gives us ſome reaſon to hope to be made acquainted with ſuch a community of white people. Mr. Barnes, when examined by the committee of privy council, ſaid, that he had been told, that thoſe white people had a fort mounted with guns upon the lake; and people, who had ſeen them, ſaid that they do not ſpeak Arabic. Though the language of the Arabs was antiently akin to that of the Phœnicians and Carthaginians, we may well ſuppoſe, that they are very different now, if the later be really anywhere in exiſtence.

ber of veſſels, and carry on an extenſive trade upon the lake, and up the river into the country of Bambarina, the chiefs of which are extolled for their politeneſs and civility.

From this great country comes above one half of the gold, and moſt of the ſlaves purchaſed at Senegal and Gambia, and almoſt all the ſlaves and gold of Morocco, Algier, Tunis, and the Levant.

This valuable country might very eaſily be explored by means of ſome of the natives of Senegal; and the author of this account is able to point out ſome men of ſenſe and fidelity, maſters of Arabic learning, and every way capable of undertaking the buſineſs *.

November 21ſt—The lords of trade and plantations gave notice, in the London gazette, that all perſons deſirous of grants of lands in Eaſt Florida and Weſt Florida, for the purpoſe of raiſing ſilk, cotton, wine, oil, cochineal, indigo, &c. might apply to Mr. Pownall, their ſecretary, without delay.

The quantity of ſilk produced in Georgia this year was only 953 pounds, which was 87 pounds leſs than the produce of the preceding year †.

Mr. Martin Kuyck Van Mierop, a member of the Ruſſian company, who had been a factor in Perſia from the commencement of the trade to the termination of it (nine years), repreſented as proofs of the great advantages to be derived from the trade to Perſia through Ruſſia, that it was carried on entirely with Britiſh manufactures, tin, cochineal, indigo, and coral beads, but that nineteen parts in twenty of the whole value conſiſted of woollen goods, and that no money nor bills were required—that almoſt the whole of the returns to England were in raw ſilk—that the ſilk ſent to Europe by the Ruſſian and Armenian merchants, owing to unfair packing, ſold 20 per cent lower than what is ſent by the Engliſh factors. The roads from Ghilan to Smyrna and Aleppo being utterly impaſſable during the convulſions in Perſia, it is now impoſſible for the Turkey company to import any ſilk; therefor it is of the utmoſt conſequence, that liberty be ſecured by the treaty, now negotiating with Ruſſia, to carry on that trade ‡.

* With Mr. Barnes's account of the interior part of Africa agrees that of Mr. George Glas, a navigator, (but originally bred to medicine) who, by reſiding in South Barbary, acquired conſiderable knowlege of the trade of the country. We ſhall afterwards find Mr. Glas propoſing to open a new channel of trade on the African coaſt.

† There was an account, publiſhed in the newſpapers, of 15,000 pounds of cocoons being brought to the filature in Georgia, which was held out as a proof of the great advantage of that culture, and of the proſperity of the province. The writer of that paragraph was not aware of the great number of pounds of cocoons required to make one pound of ſilk.

‡ The firſt treaty with Ruſſia, after this time, was in the year 1766, and no ſuch trade is mentioned in it.

The route recommended by Mr. Van Mierop is actually uſed by the Armenians in their trade between Perſia and Holland, if I am rightly informed. And the ſame route was recommended to the Engliſh Ruſſia company in the year 1740, by Captain Elton, who was acquainted with the navigation of the Caſpian ſea. At their deſire he made a journey into Perſia, by the route he propoſed, and obtained from Riſan Guleo Mirſa, the eldeſt ſon of Nadir Shach, and ſole regent of Perſia, a moſt favourable grant of trade for the 'Ho-

On an average of nine years experience, he eſtimates the proceeds of a bale of cloth, which coſts, with freight and duty in Ruſſia, £106 : 14, to be, when returned in raw ſilk, £357 : 13 : 1, ſubject to duties and charges amounting to £92 : 4 : 9, ſo that there remains a net profit of £158 : 14 : 4.

From all theſe conſiderations he ſtrongly recommended the revival of the trade though Ruſſia.

October 7th.—It being determined, after mature deliberation, that the countries ceded to Great Britain by the treaty of peace ſhould be divided into four ſeparate governments called Quebec, East Florida, West Florida, and Grenada, a proclamation was iſſued, wherein their limits were aſcertained, and encouragement was held out to ſettlers.

Quebec was bounded on the Labrador coaſt by the River St. John on the eaſt, and by a line from the head of that river through Lake St. John to the ſouth end of Lake Nipiſſim, whence by a line croſſing the River St. Laurence, and then croſſing Lake Champlain in the latitude of 45 degrees, and running along the high lands which divide the rivers running into the St. Laurence from thoſe running into the ocean, and along the north coaſt of the Bay de Chaleurs to Cape Roſiers, whence acroſs the Gulf of St. Laurence, by the weſt end of the iſland of Anticoſti, to the aforeſaid River St. John.

East Florida was bounded on the weſt by Apalachicola river, on the north by a line from that part of the Apalachicola, where the rivers Chatahouchee and Flint meet, to the ſource of St. Mary's river, and by that river to the ſea, which forms the other boundaries of the province, wherein are alſo comprehended all iſlands within ſix leagues of the coaſt.

West-Florida was bounded on the ſouth by the Gulf of Mexico, on the weſt by Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, and the River Miſſiſippi, as far north as the latitude of 31 degrees, which parallel of latitude forms its northern boundary, the eaſtern one being the River Apalachicola. All iſlands within ſix leagues of the coaſt were alſo annexed to this province.

The government of Grenada comprehended that iſland with the Grenadines, the iſlands of Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago *.

For the extenſion of an open and free fiſhery to all Britiſh ſubjects, the coaſt of Labrador, from the River St. John to Hudſon's ſtraits, together with Anticoſti, Madelaine, and the other iſlands on that coaſt,

' nourable Engliſh merchants,' with every privilege they could wiſh for.

The inland navigation, from Peterſburg to the Caſpian ſea, was ſo much improved by the late empreſs in the year 1780, that the voyage is now performed in half the time it formerly required. [*Phillips's Hiſt. of inland navigation, p.* 26, *ed.* 1795.]

* Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, ſince the conqueſt of them had been annexed to the government of Barbados.

were put under the care and inſpection of the governor of Newfoundland.

The iſlands of St. John and Cape Breton, with their dependencies, were annexed to the government of Nova-Scotia.

And the tract of land between the rivers Alatamaha and St. Marys, was annexed to Georgia.

For the encouragement of ſettlers, the proclamation held out the aſſurance of ſecurity for their liberties and properties, of regular government, and of repreſentative aſſemblies as ſoon as the provinces ſhould be ſufficiently populous to admit of elections. The lands ſhould be granted on the moſt liberal terms; and for the particular encouragement of the army, the governors of the three new provinces on the continent, and the governors of all the other provinces in North America, ſhould be inſtructed to grant, without fee or reward, and free of quit-rents for ten years, and of all obligations, except thoſe of cultivation and improvement,

To every field officer -	5000 acres of land,
To every captain - -	3000,
To every ſubaltern, or ſtaff officer	2000,
To every noncommiſſioned officer -	200,
And to every private man - -	50 *.

And to ſuch reduced officers of the navy, as ſerved at the reduction of Louiſburg and Quebec, the like quantities of land, agreeable to their rank, were offered on the ſame terms.

The governors of the three new provinces on the continent, were reſtricted from making any grants of land, or permitting any ſettle-

* For the encouragement of ſuch ſoldiers and ſailors as choſe to ſettle at home, gratuitous, or advantageous, offers of lands were alſo made by public ſocieties and public-ſpirited individuals.

The Dublin ſociety offered premiums of five pounds each to the firſt hundred ſoldiers or ſailors, who had ſerved his Majeſty out of Great Britain or Ireland, and were regularly diſcharged from the ſervice, that ſhould, in the year 1763, take leaſes for lives of not leſs than five, nor more than twenty, acres of land in the provinces of Leinſter, Munſter, and Connaught, on their producing, in September 1764, certificates from the clergyman of the pariſh, or two neighbouring juſtices, of their induſtry, and the apparent probability of their perſeverance and continuance on their farms. And they alſo offered honorary gold medals to each of the firſt ten landlords in thoſe three provinces, who ſhould let at leaſt five ſuch farms to ſuch tenants.

The truſtees for the forfeited eſtates in Scotland promiſed the ſoldiers and ſailors gratuitous land, and alſo materials for building and cultivation, fiſhing boats, tackle, and even money.

Sir Ludovick Grant, and Mr. Grant of Grant, offered to grant them farms of from five to fifteen acres in the ſhires of Inverneſs, Elgin, and Bamff, free of rent for ſeven years; and for twelve years thereafter at one ſhilling the acre, and to allow them timber, ſtone, and lime, for building, and peats for fuel.

Several villages or hamlets were ſettled in conſequence of theſe encouragements. But the viciſſitudes of fatigue and indolence in the military life, are not very proper preparatives for the regular and perſevering induſtry requiſite for agricultural purſuits. I believe moſt of the ſettlements were ſoon abandoned.

ments to be made on the lands reſerved for the occupation of the Indian aborigines. The trade with the Indians was declared to be entirely free and open to all Britiſh ſubjects, on complying with ſuch regulations as already were, or afterwards ſhould be, made for the direction of it; the traders being only obliged to take out licences from the governors, who were to give them without any fee or reward.

Agreeable to the arrangement fixed by this proclamation for the new provinces, the king had appointed General James Murray to be governor of Quebec, or Canada; General James Grant to be governor of Eaſt Florida; Commodore George Johnſton to be governor of Weſt Florida; and General Robert Melville to be governor-general of Grenada and the other ceded iſlands.

In the year 1749 an agent, or ſuperintendent, ſubordinate to the governor of Jamaica, had been appointed, with a ſuitable allowance, to direct the Britiſh ſettlements on the Muſquito ſhore, and to cultivate the friendſhip of the Indians of thoſe parts. In conſequence of the article in the treaty of peace for demoliſhing the fortifications on the Bay of Honduras, it had become doubtful, whether the office of ſuperintendent on the Muſquito ſhore was alſo to ceaſe; but by directions from home he was continued in office. Soon after Captain Otway, the ſuperintendent, ſent home the following account of the Britiſh ſettlements and trade on the tract of coaſt under his care.

At Black river, the principal ſettlement, there were 45 white families, and 21 families of meſtees *; and in ten other ſmaller ſettlements there were 22 families of whites, and 9 of meſtees. The annual exports he calculates to be 650,000 feet of mahogany, 110,000 pounds of ſarſaparilla, 8000 pounds of turtle ſhell, 150 mules, and cotton, indigo, and cacao, in ſmall quantities †.

December 19th.—In the act of parliament for levying the land-tax for the year 1764, all perſonal eſtates, including debts, excepting deſperate debts, ſtock on land, houſehold goods, and loans to his Majeſty, are taxed to pay four ſhillings in the pound of their yearly value, which is one per cent on the capital. The ſame tax is alſo extended to all employments and penſions, ſhares in the new river, fire offices, &c. excepting, however, offices in the army and navy.

In that part of the act, which regulates the taxation for Scotland, it

* People of mixed breed, between whites and Indians, or between whites and negroes, or of all theſe breeds confounded. Meſtee, however, in ſtricter acceptation, means the iſſue of a mulatto and a white, who is three quarters white and one quarter negro.

† The quantity of cotton increaſed conſiderably afterwards, and the quality of it was excellent, eſpecially of that of the growth of St. Andreas, an iſland about 40 leagues from the ſhore.

appears, that there ſtill remained in that country ſome obligations in force for debts bearing intereſt at ſix per cent; and the debtors, by § 132, were authoriſed to withhold payment of one ſixth part (or one per cent) of the intereſt.

By § 137, a ſum not exceeding two millions, bearing intereſt at four per cent, was directed to be borrowed on the credit of this tax. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 2.]

The marine ſociety, that noble combination of charity and patriotiſm, was originally projected by the benevolent Jonas Hanway, for the purpoſe of feeding and clothing poor deſtitute boys, and fitting them out for the ſea ſervice; and it was ſupported by the liberal contributions of himſelf and other philanthropiſts, among whom Mr. Hickes, a merchant in Hamburgh, who bequeathed to this moſt valuable charity his whole fortune, amounting to above £20,000, deſerves to be eminently noticed. During the war, a very great number of boys had been rendered uſeful to themſelves and to their country by this ſociety. And they did not loſe ſight of their wards, when they were diſcharged from the navy on the return of peace, but invited all thoſe, who were under ſixteen years of age, to return to them. Some of theſe youths they placed with watermen, lightermen, fiſhermen, and commanders of merchant veſſels; others they put under the care of officers of the navy, who engaged to keep them for three years; and about ninety were bound to manufactures and mechanic trades. By theſe means they put about three hundred of their boys a ſecond time in a fair way of becoming uſeful members of ſociety, inſtead of being a burthen and a nuiſance to it, as many of them would probably have been, if they had remained in their original and undirected ſtate of miſerable dereliction.

The north part of Stafford-ſhire, abounding with coal, and, its uſual attendant, ſtrong fire-clay, has certainly been the ſeat of manufactories of earthen ware for ſeveral centuries *. When Dr. Plott wrote his Natural hiſtory of Stafford-ſhire in the year 1686, the manufacture was confined to coarſe butter pans, and ſuch ware, the ſale of which extended no farther than they could be carried on the backs of the workmen or hawkers.

About the beginning of the eighteenth century the diſcovery of a fine bed of red earth at Bradwell induced two brothers of the name of Elers to come from Holland and ſettle there: and they may be conſidered as the firſt improvers of the pottery. They made a fine kind of red porcelain in imitation of the oriental; and they introduced the

* Some years ago the veſtiges of an antient pottery were diſcovered at Cheſterton, a village near Newcaſtle, the name of which proves its Roman origin, whence it has been ſuppoſed that the Romans may have eſtabliſhed a manufactory of earthen ware at that place.

art of glazing earthen ware by throwing common ſalt into the oven at the time of its higheſt ignition. But the clouds of ſmoke, raiſed by this operation, gave ſuch offence to the neighbourhood, that they were obliged to leave the country; and, it is believed, they removed to Ireland.

The clays of Stafford-ſhire are not fit for making white earthen ware: but the ingenuity of the manufacturers has diſcovered various improvements and combinations of the different ſubſtances, which have enabled them to produce from their own clays ſeveral ſpecies of earthen ware, ſtill beyond the reach of foreign competition.

The pipe-clay of Devon-ſhire was alſo carried to Stafford-ſhire, and formed the baſis of a white earthen ware, which was ſoon after much improved by the accidental diſcovery of the uſe of calcined flint. Theſe improvements produced a ſtronger and more agreeable ſpecies of goods, known for many years by the name of *white ſtone ware*, which was glazed with ſalt in the manner introduced by the Elers, the neighbours no longer complaining of the nuiſance of the ſmoke. This ware came into very general uſe all over the country; and ſome of it was exported. But ſtill great quantities of finer and more elegantly-formed earthen ware were imported from France and Holland for the tables of the wealthy.

Such was the ſtate of the manufacture, when Mr. Joſiah Wedgwood this year produced a new kind of cream-coloured earthen ware, ſuperior in texture and durability to the French and Dutch, more capable of bearing the ſudden changes of heat and cold, and covered with a brilliant and impenetrable glazing, which could be furniſhed at a moderate expenſe. The tide of public taſte immediately turned; foreign earthen wares were diſcarded; Engliſh wares were uſed in every houſe in the kingdom, and began to be exported to the very countries from which earthen ware had hitherto been brought; and the foreign manufactures, unable to ſtand the competition, declined, or were abandoned.

Mr. Wedgwood, who, with the diligence of the manufacturer, poſſeſſed the ſcience and unwearied perſeverance of the experimental philoſopher, not ſatisfied with having added a moſt important article of univerſal uſe to the manufactures of the country, (for the quantity made before his improvement, compared with that made ſince, may be reckoned as nothing) introduced many new ſpecies of porcelain of various colours and ſorts, of which are made an infinite variety of ornamental works, comprehending cameos, intaglios, bas-reliefs, medallions, tablets, ſmall ſtatues, buſts, ſeals, &c. the matter of which is ſo hard, and ſo qualified to reſiſt the action of fire and acids, that it promiſes to remain, after time ſhall have deſtroyed pictures, and even marbles and bronzes, an unperiſhing monument, to hand down to the lateſt poſterity the immortal fame of the inventor, along with that of the characters repreſented on it. The fortunate circumſtance of Sir William Hamilton bringing over from Italy his admired collection of antique vaſes alſo

opened a new field to his imitative powers; and he ſoon rendered their beautiful forms familiar in this country, inſtead of being confined to the knowlege of the few who could have acceſs to ſee the originals. He, no ſooner, diſcovered the art of painting on vaſes, &c. without any gloſs, in the manner of the antient Etruſcans, which, according to Mr. D' ancarville, (in his Diſſertation on Sir William Hamilton's muſeum) has been loſt ever ſince the age of Pliny: and his productions in this claſs have even a ſuperiority over the Etruſcan vaſes, as they add to the beauty of deſign, the advantages of light and ſhade in all the variety of colours. His porcelain mortars, harder and more impenetrable than marble or metal, and his pyrometers for determining the degree of heat in very ſtrong fires *, deſerve the gratitude of all who are intereſted in medicinal and chemical operations. Nor muſt his improved ink-pots, though trifling in point of price, be forgotten, as they are valuable to all who wiſh to preſerve the points of their pens from being ſpoiled, and their fingers from being daubed with ink †.

For the ſake of connection, I ſhall here give a brief account of the improved ſtate of the earthen ware manufacture, chiefly extracted from Mr. Wedgwood's own evidence, given before the committee of the houſe of commons in May 1785.

From fifteen to twenty thouſand perſons are employed in the potteries: and much greater numbers are employed in digging coals for them, and in various diſtant parts of the kingdom, and even in Ireland, in raiſing and preparing the clay and flint, whereof fifty or ſixty thouſand tuns are annually conveyed to Stafford-ſhire by coaſting and inland navigation, which gives employment not only to coaſting veſſels and canal barges, but alſo to the veſſels belonging to the Newfoundland fiſhery during the months that they uſed to be laid up idle. Vaſt numbers are alſo employed in carrying the goods, when manufactured, to every part of Great Britain for home conſumption, and for exportation.

Though many of the ſtates of Europe have prohibited the admiſſion of Britiſh earthen ware, and others have loaded it with intolerable duties, yet five ſixths of the quantity made are exported; and ſcarcely a veſſel ſails from any port of Great Britain without carrying leſs or more of this cheap and univerſally-uſeful article, the great bulk of which, in compariſon with its price, renders it a moſt important object in reſpect to freightage, as every tun in weight of the raw material becomes three or four tuns in meaſurement, when ſhipped in its finiſhed ſtate. To this account of the great increaſe of the manufacture Mr.

* The pyrometer has a diſtinguiſhed place in all the laboratories of chemiſtry and experimental philoſophy on the continent. [See *Travels in England and Scotland by Mr. Faujas Saint-Fond*, V. i, *p.* 96, *Engliſh tranſlation.*]

† A fuller and better account of Mr. Wedgwood's inventions may be found in a catalogue which is delivered to the public at the warehouſe.

Wedgwood added, that he conceived it to be ſtill in its infancy, in compariſon of what it may be, if it is not interrupted in its growth *.

The manufacture has ſtill continued to increaſe, and has ſpread over a diſtrict in the north part of Stafford-ſhire of about nine miles in extent, the whole of which is now ſo covered with manufactories and dwelling houſes, that it has the appearance of one large ſcattering town, and is accordingly called in the neighbourhood by the name of the *Pottery*, though including ſeveral towns and villages. Earthen ware is alſo made in imitation of Mr. Wedgwood's manner in many other parts of Great Britain, and in Ireland, and alſo in ſeveral parts of the continent of Europe.

Thus are the meaneſt materials, the clay and the flint ſtones under our feet, converted into objects of the greateſt utility and beauty, and become the means of giving employment to a prodigious number of people with the greateſt poſſible national advantage (for the whole value of the earthen ware of every kind is the price of labour paid to our own people) and of opening a new and extenſive field of commerce of the moſt beneficial kind to the kingdom. For all theſe bleſſings Great Britain is indebted to the genius, the elegant taſte, the ſcience, and the perſeverance, of Mr. Wedgwood, whoſe memory ought to be held in honour by all concerned in the landed or commercial intereſts, or who wiſh well to the general proſperity, of Great Britain †.

The following ſums were this year voted by the Iriſh parliament for promoting inland navigation and other commercial objects ‡.

For the great canal from Dublin to the Shannon, -	£6000
For a canal to carry veſſels of 100 tuns from Newry to Loch Neagh, and thence to Drumglas colliery in the county of Tyrone, - - - -	4000
A canal to connect Loch Swilly and Loch Foyle, -	4000
A canal, which, with the improvements on the River Lagan, completes the navigation between Loch Neagh and the ſea at Belfaſt, - - - -	2000
Four other inland navigations by canals and improvement of the River Shannon, &c. - - -	10,000

* Let us alſo hear what a foreigner, a chemiſt, and mineralogiſt, and a lover of the arts, ſays of it. 'Its excellent workmanſhip, its ſolidity, the advantage which it poſſeſſes of ſuſtaining the action of fire, its fine glaze impenetrable to acids, the beauty and convenience of its form, and the cheapneſs of its price, have given riſe to a commerce ſo active, and ſo univerſal, that in travelling from Paris to Peterſburgh, from Amſterdam to the fartheſt part of Sweden, and from Dunkirk to the extremity of the ſouth of France, one is ſerved at every inn upon Engliſh ware. Spain, Portugal, and Italy, are ſupplied with it, and veſſels are loaded with it for the Eaſt-Indies, the Weſt-Indies, and the continent of America.' [*Faujas Saint-Fond, V.* i, *p.* 97.]

† Mr. Wedgwood died in January 1795, at Etruria, his ſeat in Stafford-ſhire, where he poſſeſſed a fine eſtate, an extenſive ſet of works for his manufactory, and a village for the accommodation of his work people; all the fruits of his own honourable creative induſtry.

‡ See the grants of the year 1761 in *p.* 349.

Improving harbours and building piers, quays, &c. at Dublin and ſeven other ports, - - - £11,200
To aſſiſt the expenſe of the dry dock at Dublin, - 1000
For carrying on the ballaſt-office wall, - - 4000
For carrying on a whale fiſhery on the north-weſt coaſt of Ireland, - - - - 1000
To the Dublin ſociety for the encouragement of arts, trades, and manufactures, - - - 10,000

And conſiderable ſums were at the ſame time allotted for churches, hoſpitals, bridges, and other uſeful works.

The herrings, after having for fifty years deſerted the coaſt of Sweden, had ſome years ago returned to it in ſuch abundance, that 42,012 tuns of thoſe fiſh were ſent from the coaſt into the interior parts of the country; and there were exported from Gottenburg 101,143 tuns of ſalted herrings, 48 of ſmoked, and 322 of freſh; as alſo 63,016 cannes of oil made from the herrings. The Swediſh government wiſely encouraged this very profitable fiſhery for ſome time after the revival of it. But by the very ſuperior advantage of taking the herrings in prodigious numbers at almoſt no expenſe by ſeine nets cloſe upon the ſhore, the low price of labour and of caſks, it was ſoon capable of ſupporting itſelf without any public aſſiſtance; and the Swedes were enabled to underſell every other nation engaged in the herring fiſhery.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1762 to Chriſtmas 1763 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£18,128 2 8		£463,818 9 4	£131 5 0
Canaries	2,739 13 1		21,032 16 9	
Denmark and Norway	89,179 11 2	£36,216 7 1	140,610 10 7	26,940 17 8
East Country	247,060 1 6		299,857 7 7	
East-India	1,059,335 18 7		887,083 7 0	
Flanders	83,320 3 10		384,177 12 8	27,697 14 2
France	43,158 5 5		197,100 11 3	187,305 11 3
Germany	1,085,107 0 9	4,842 8 0	2,272,272 16 8	20,649 13 9
Greenland	8,117 15 2	2,491 7 10	22 15 3	
Holland	476,383 10 3	84,419 15 5	1,910,240 19 5	291,599 8 0
Ireland	769,379 11 8	130,604 15 1	1,640,713 3 3	105,654 18 6
Mann		3 15 0		1,433 14 10
Italy	948,140 8 0	1,237 3 1	468,779 18 4	1,145 14 6
Madeira	1,119 3 9		37,278 13 3	239 6 2
Poland		10,536 2 7		15,300 16 10
Prussia		8,740 8 7		6,904 17 5
Portugal	304,056 0 10	11,081 8 5	727,623 12 9	11,706 8 6
Ruſſia	801,279 0 7	110,720 5 8	78,901 1 11	92,339 9 1
Spain	590,506 5 11	6,250 11 6	1,168,072 1 3	11,973 0 7
Straits	20,276 11 4		325,622 18 6	
Sweden	249,540 15 0	24,275 6 0	20,494 1 7	1,544 15 6
Turkey	76,004 9 2		93,646 13 11	

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Venice	£31,841 18 4		20,259 14 0	
Guernsey, &c.	144,895 7 9	10,350 3 11	43,746 12 9	3,690 8 0
Belle-isle	17 13 7		929 9 6	
America in general	353,984 11 5			270,548 16 9
Hudson's bay	8,567 10 1		4,393 2 7	
Newfoundland	34,102 18 8		55,102 8 7	
Quebec	26,856 13 5		149,539 16 4	
Nova-Scotia	4,312 9 10		16,303 3 4	
New-England	74,815 1 1		258,854 19 6	
New-York	53,988 14 4		238,560 2 1	
Pennsylvania	38,228 10 2		284,152 16 0	
Virginia and Maryland	642,294 2 9		555,391 12 10	
Carolina	282,366 3 6		250,132 2 0	
Georgia	14,469 18 4		44,908 19 9	
Florida			9,946 5 2	
West-Indies in general		88,331 12 3	39,578 10 10	75,672 18 3
Anguilla	2,369 18 9			
Antigua	180,347 3 1		101,574 8 2	
Barbados	252,537 10 0		213,909 4 9	
Bermuda			8,623 15 11	
Dominica			1,264 5 6	
Grenada	261,552 3 0		53,118 5 6	
Guadaloupe	412,303 18 7		11,159 1 4	
Havanna	249,387 4 8		6,643 11 6	
Jamaica	1,159,023 15 11		584,978 2 5	
Martinique	344,162 7 1		12,455 14 2	
Montserrat	59,571 15 11		15,505 18 1	
Nevis	45,280 9 10		29,557 9 8	
New-Providence	6,438 2 11			
St. Croix	8,396 5 9		1,144 0 0	
St. Christophers	234,981 17 9		104,724 7 10	
Tortola	58,571 4 2		1,901 1 4	
Foreign West-Indies		19,137 0 11		3,190 14 6
British and Irish linens exported on bounty to various countries			30,604 6 6	
Prize goods	160,516 12 10		201,194 6 7	
Imp. and exp. of England	11,665,036 0 9		14,487,507 3 9	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	903,891 2 8	903,891 2 8	1,091,435 19 9	1,091,435 19 9
Total, Great Britain	12,568,927 3 5		15,578,943 3 6	

There belonged this year to all the ports
of England - 6,571 veſſels, of the reputed burthen of 496,093 tuns,
and of Scotland 1,062 59,862

Total - 7,633 555,955

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was, from the cuſtom-houſe in London, £2,247,103 18 9
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh, - 2,500 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain, £2,249,603 18 9

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

10,980 pounds of gold, value - -	£513,040	10	0
and 848 pounds of ſilver, - - -	2,628	16	0
	£515,669	6	0

1764 January—As the charter of the bank of England was nearly expired, an agreement was entered into between the government and the bank, whereby the later agreed to pay caſh for exchequer bills to the amount of a million, for which they were to receive intereſt at the rate of three per cent till the year 1766, when the bills were to be paid off; and alſo to pay £110,000, for which they were to receive neither intereſt nor repayment: but in conſideration thereof they were to be continued a body corporate with all their advantages as before, and to the excluſion of every other body politic, and partnerſhip exceeding ſix perſons, from carrying on the buſineſs of banking in England till the redemption of the debt due to them by government, and one year's notice after the firſt day of Auguſt 1786.

The agreement was ſoon after confirmed by an act of parliament, wherein it was made felony without benefit of clergy to forge powers of attorney or other authorities for receiving dividends, transferring or ſelling ſtock, or to perſonate the proprietor of any ſtock in order to receive his dividend or transfer his ſtock (April 18th). [4 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

In the enſuing October the dividends on bank ſtock were raiſed from *four and a half* to *five* per cent.

The ſcheme of ſupplying the metropolis with freſh fiſh at moderate prices under the patronage of the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, and the management of Captain Blake, in the year 1761, had been ſtrongly oppoſed, and in a great meaſure defeated by the arts of thoſe, who were intereſted in keeping up the price of fiſh. The ſociety, who had advanced £2000 as the foundation of the buſineſs, and £1500 further as a loan to Captain Blake to aſſiſt in carrying it on, being fully ſatisfied of the propriety and integrity of his conduct, entirely releaſed him from the obligation of the debt contracted in his zeal for the ſervice of the public. As it was evident, that this undertaking, though attended with loſs to the patriotic ſociety and the manager, had been very advantageous to the public in greatly reducing the price of fiſh, parliament ſoon after allowed Captain Blake £2500 to enable him to perſevere in his laudable attempt.

The ſociety of arts, ſtill deſirous of exerting themſelves for procuring a plentiful ſupply of fiſh, and encouraging native fiſhermen, ſoon after offered a premium of £5 for every hundred of turbots meaſuring 16 inches from the eye to the fork of the tail, and £2 : 10 for every hundred not under 10 inches *, caught by Britiſh ſubjects, and offered

* Pope, in his Satires, informs us, that it was the *faſhion* to prefer ſmall turbots in his time.

for ſale in London or Weſtminſter between the 1ſt of May and 31ſt of Auguſt 1764.

Since the eſtabliſhment of this truely benevolent and generous ſociety in the year 1755, they had expended almoſt £20,000 in public-ſpirited meaſures for promoting the improvement and the happineſs of the country.

The Engliſh Eaſt-India company, though originally merely a ſociety of merchants, by being obliged to maintain a body of troops for the protection of their ſettlements, and by their frequent conteſts and alliances with the princes of Hindooſtan, had gradually become a warlike, as well as a commercial, commonwealth. Even at this time they had gained ſuch an aſcendant in the affairs of India, that the court of directors in Leadenhall ſtreet might with great propriety be compared to the ſenators of antient Rome ſitting in judgment on, and determining the fate of, ſuppliant princes: for the ſovereigns of India, whoſe protection the company uſed formerly to court, were now, by ſome of thoſe ſtrange revolutions, which have in all ages decided the fate of that country, ſunk into the ſituation of dependents upon the company, (or, perhaps, to ſpeak more correctly, of their ſervants in India) at whoſe pleaſure they poſſeſſed their precarious dignities. In order to give the reader ſome idea of the events, that in the courſe of a few years placed the company, as territorial ſovereigns, at leaſt on a level in reſpect to power and revenue with the greateſt of the Oriental princes, the emperor of China only excepted, it will be neceſſary to give a glance to the affairs of India for a few years back.

The Engliſh governor and council of Calcutta, provoked by the capture of their town by Surajah Dowlah nabob of Bengal, and ſenſible that, ſince they were now at variance with that prince, their ſafety could only conſiſt in a ſuperiority of power, entered into a negotiation with Mir Jaffier Aly Cawn, one of his favourite chiefs, to whom they offered their aſſiſtance to eſtabliſh him on the throne of his ſovereign. In conſequence of their previous agreement Jaffier ſtood neuter at the battle of Plaſſey, fought in June 1757, and Surajah was completely routed by Colonel (afterwards Lord) Clive: and that battle may be ſaid to have made the Engliſh Eaſt-India company the arbiters of the deſtiny of the ſovereigns of Bengal, beſides giving them a preponderating influence throughout all the ſtates of Hindooſtan *. Jaffier was accordingly made nabob: and in conſideration of the aſſiſtance given him by the Engliſh company he paid them a great ſum in ready money, and reſigned to them a territory yielding a revenue of £600,000 a-year, reſerving to himſelf only the quit-rents amounting to £30,000 a-year;

* The proper name, in the Perſian language, of the country uſually called India on this ſide of the Ganges, though that river is by no means the boundary of it. The indigenous name is Bharata. [See *Rennel's Memoirs of a map of Hindoſtan*, *p.* xx.]

and even theſe he ſoon after diveſted himſelf of in favour of Colonel Clive, which donation became the ſubject of much public diſcuſſion under the name of Clive's jagheer. He was moreover obliged to grant them privileges in trade, ſo exceſſively great, and ſo prejudicial to his cuſtoms, that upon the whole his exaltation to ſovereign power might juſtly be ſaid to have ruined him. He was reduced to ſuch neceſſitous circumſtances, that he was driven to the deſperate reſource of oppreſſing his ſubjects beyond their abilities; and yet he fell greatly in arrears to his army, whoſe good will was eſſentially neceſſary to ſupport him againſt the diſcontents of his ſubjects, and to levy the taxes he laid upon them, and alſo to enable him to encroach upon thoſe privileges he had ſo profuſely granted to the Engliſh. In this diſtreſsful ſituation he was attacked by ſeveral of the neighbouring powers; and the government of Calcutta, no longer inclined to favour or aſſiſt him, reſolved to depoſe him, and ſet up his ſon-in-law Mir Coſſim Aly Cawn in his place.

The propoſed revolution was ſoon effected by Governor Vanſittart and Colonel Caillaud; and, as the price of his elevation, additional payments and privileges were obtained from the new nabob.

Coſſim was a man of much greater abilities than his predeceſſor. He felt the miſery and ignominy of his ſituation: but he reſolved to bear it in ſilence, till he ſhould be enabled to bring about a proper opportunity of aſſerting the independence of the ſovereignty, with which he was inveſted: and that purpoſe he kept conſtantly in view, as the capital object of all his politics. By aſſiduouſly cultivating the friendſhip of the Engliſh he was enabled to defeat a ſon of the great Mogul, who had attacked him, and with whom he ſoon after entered into an alliance. He alſo ſuppreſſed the Indian rajahs, who had taken the advantage of his predeceſſor's embarraſſments to throw off the yoke, and compelled them to pay the antient tribute. His revenue being thereby ſomewhat improved, he was enabled to pay his army more regularly, and to eſtabliſh quiet and good order in his dominions. And now he thought himſelf in a condition to throw off his diſguiſe, and to become his own maſter. His firſt ſtep was to remove his reſidence from Moorſhedabad to Mongheer, two hundred miles higher up the Ganges, that his actions might no longer be expoſed to the obſervations of the Engliſh at Calcutta. He loſt no time in fortifying his new capital, and in forming an army, which, by the acceſſion of military adventurers from various nations of Europe and Aſia, he was enabled to arm, diſcipline, and furniſh with artillery, altogether in a ſtile much ſuperior to what had ever before been ſeen in India.

The free trade, which his predeceſſor and he had been obliged to grant to the Engliſh, was not only ruinous to his revenue, but alſo to the trade of his ſubjects, all the commerce of the country being there-

by forced out of its antient and natural courſe into thoſe new and more favoured channels. He therefor began his operations by ordering that the Engliſh *private* traders ſhould pay the uſual duties throughout his dominions, and that all diſputes, originating beyond the Engliſh limits, ſhould be decided by his magiſtrates.

Such orders were moſt alarming to the factory at Calcutta. Mr. Vanſittart the governor thought his own preſence neceſſary to try to bring things back to their former channel, and undertook a journey to Mongheer for that purpoſe. But the nabob had hitherto conducted his plans too well to be induced by any force of argument to depart from them; and he thus anſwered the governor's remonſtrances:

'If the ſervants of the Engliſh company were permitted to trade in 'all parts and in all commodities cuſtom-free, as many of them now 'pretend, they muſt of courſe draw all the trade into their own hands; 'and my cuſtoms would be of ſo little value, that it would be much 'more for my intereſt to lay the trade entirely open, and collect no 'cuſtoms from any perſon whatſoever upon any kind of merchandize. 'This would draw a number of merchants into the country, and in-'creaſe my revenues by encouraging the cultivation and manufacture 'of a large quantity of goods for ſale, at the ſame time that it would 'effectually cut off the principal ſubject of diſpute, which had diſturb-'ed the good underſtanding between us, an object I have more than 'any other at heart.'

There was no anſwering a ſpeech ſo forcible in point of argument, and ſo well ſupported by the power of the ſpeaker. The governor, though accuſtomed to dictate to Indian princes, was obliged to ſubmit to the regulations preſcribed by the nabob, which, whether reaſonable or not, were far from being agreeable to the gentlemen of the factory, who, in virtue of the former indulgences, were making great fortunes at the expenſe of the nabob and people of Bengal.

In their aſtoniſhment and indignation at ſeeing the creature of their own hands raiſe his head againſt them, they diſowned the agreement made by their governor, and ſent orders to all the ſubordinate factories to pay no attention to it. Every thing was now thrown into confuſion, and the whole commerce of the country was at a ſtand. They then made another application to Coſſim to repeal the obnoxious regulations; but he, confident of his power, haughtily refuſed to enter into any negotiation with them.

The factory, ſtung with reſentment and diſappointment, and preſuming upon the eaſe wherewith they had lately made and unmade princes, immediately proclaimed Mir Jaffier again nabob of Bengal; and the deciſion of the conteſt was referred to the ſword.

The Engliſh garriſon of a fortified factory at Patna, a city on the Ganges, 400 miles above Calcutta and about 100 above Mongheer,

ſtruck the firſt blow in this war by an attack upon the town of Patna, which they almoſt inſtantly made themſelves maſters of, and abandoning themſelves to the licentiouſneſs and diſorders of pillage, they were as ſuddenly driven out of it in four hours thereafter, and obliged to take ſhelter in their fort, which they as ſpeedily abandoned, fled acroſs the Ganges, and three days after were completely routed by the Indian forces (25th June—1ſt July 1763).

Major Adams immediately marched into the nabob's territories; and, though Coſſim conducted his operations with a degree of prudence and military knowlege never before attained by any of the Indian princes, and his troops were alſo better armed, clothed, and diſciplined, and diſplayed more courage and firmneſs than is uſual with Indian armies, the ſuperior military knowlege and diſcipline of the Engliſh in a few months (July—October 1763) drove him from poſt to poſt, and at laſt entirely out of his dominions to take ſhelter with Sujah Dowlah, the nabob of the neighbouring province of Oude, who, fearful of drawing on himſelf the reſentment of the Engliſh, refuſed to admit any of his troops, though he willingly afforded an aſylum to himſelf.

Such was the ſituation of affairs in India, when the diſpatches were ſent home: and, though the event might be conſidered as rather favourable to the company, yet, when they received the unwelcome news of a war, the progreſs and conſequences of which might be ſo deſtructive to their revenue, which from territorial and commercial funds now amounted to between ſix and ſeven hundred thouſand pounds a-year, it ſtruck them with ſo great a conſternation, that India ſtock immediately fell 14 per cent (February 6th), and great debates enſued on the meaſures proper to be purſued in India.

Lord Clive was generally conſidered by the proprietors of India ſtock as the perſon beſt qualified for the military command in ſuch critical circumſtances. But there were ſome diſputes on the ſubject of his jagheer, which the company, through whoſe hands only he could receive it, had withheld from him, as being anſwerable for it to the Mogul, if he ſhould ever be in a capacity to demand it of them. There was alſo another difficulty. While they wiſhed Lord Clive to be at the head of their army abroad, they deſired that Mr. Sullivan ſhould preſide as chairman in the direction at home. But Lord Clive poſitively refuſed to take any concern in the company's affairs, if that gentleman were to be at the head of the direction. And ſo high were their hopes and their confidence in Lord Clive's military talents, that all difficulties were ſmoothed, the affair of the jagheer was accommodated to his ſatisfaction, and Mr. Sullivan was obliged to content himſelf with being merely one of the directors. Lord Clive, having thus got all matters in diſpute ſettled almoſt on his own terms, embarked for India about the end of May.

The India company, in order to avoid ſimilar diſputes in future, made a law, that henceforth none of their ſervants ſhould ever accept any gratuity from any prince or governor in India.

Some ſtones found in the Highlands of Scotland *, and judged to be equal in beauty, and all the other characteriſtics, to the oriental rubies, were preſented to the royal ſociety and the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, commerce, and manufactures. If a brilliant ſtone is really a deſirable thing, and worthy of being purchaſed at the price of a good eſtate, whether is it better to procure them from the pooreſt provinces of our own iſland, or from the moſt opulent regions of the globe?

Siberia, a country hitherto little known, appears to be rich in mines of the pretious metals. 13,200 pounds weight of ſilver, and 990 pounds of gold, the produce of the labour of the miners in the year 1763, were conveyed to Peterſburg in the beginning of this year. The quantity was expected to be greater in the enſuing year, as that of 1763 had exceeded what had been got in 1762. A mine of quickſilver was alſo diſcovered in the ſame country.

March 20th—A new harbour was completed by Sir John Huſſey Delaval at Hartley near Newcaſtle, the entrance of which was cut out of the ſolid rock 19 feet deep and about 900 feet in length.

There being a general complaint of the high prices of proviſions, parliament inſtituted an inquiry, whereby it appeared, that the price of the beſt beef to the venders was $3d$ a pound, and to the conſumers $4d$ and $4\frac{1}{2}d$ for choiſe pieces, $3d$ and $3\frac{1}{4}d$ for middling, and from $1\frac{3}{4}d$ to $2\frac{1}{4}d$ for coarſe pieces, being about a halfpenny dearer than the prices in the ſame month (March) in the preceding years, when we were engaged in an extenſive war. On examining the people concerned in conveying the meat from the farmer to the conſumer, it appeared that there was no ſcarcity of cattle, that meat was ſold much cheaper within thirty miles of London, and, notwithſtanding ſeveral ſpecious pretences, that the high price in London was in reality owing to the arts of engroſſers and foreſtallers. But though the cauſe of ſo great an evil was diſcovered, we do not find that any effectual remedy has ever been applied †.

* Among the pretious ſtones found in the Highlands may be reckoned ſapphires, equal to the oriental; hexagonal topazes, commonly called, from the mountain on which they are chiefly found, Carn-gorm ſtones, one of which, in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Farquharſon of Invercauld, is as large as the body of a child of two years old; the emerald; the amethyſt; the garnet or ruby. The Ely ruby found in the ſands at Ely in Fife.

The pearls of Scotland were famous in former times, and the collection of them belonging to King Alexander I was celebrated and coveted in foreign kingdoms. See an account of the Scottiſh pretious ſtones in the *Bee*, 1793, a periodical work publiſhed at Edinburgh.

† Some hold it as a maxim, that the high price of proviſions is a proof of flouriſhing commerce and national proſperity. But this, like all other general rules, muſt be received with allowances and exceptions. The trade of the cattle-jobber and carcaſe-butcher may proſper while the price of meat is very high; but commerce is hurt by it in

Upon a conſideration of the ſtate of the iſlands ceded to us in the Weſt-Indies by the treaty of peace, in order to concert a plan for the immediate and effectual improvement of them, the following account of them was drawn up.

Tobago, ſuppoſed to contain above 100,000 acres of land, is one of the moſt valuable of the Caribbee iſlands, being, though little encumbered with mountains, well refreſhed by rivulets, and ſtored with uſeful timber. Though it was formerly in ſome degree ſettled *, it was now abandoned, the only habitations on it being a few huts for the ſhelter of the French turtlers, when they reſorted to it. For the moſt advantageous ſettlement of this iſland, it was recommended, that it ſhould be divided into convenient diſtricts or pariſhes of from ſix to ten thouſand acres each, limited as natural boundaries might direct, and extending from the ſhore into the heart of the iſland; that ſituations proper for fortifications or yards for the navy ſhould firſt be marked out; that a place in each diviſion moſt convenient for trade, and containing from 500 to 1000 acres, ſhould be allotted for a town, with ſuitable allowances of glebe for a miniſter and ſchoolmaſter; that in the hilly parts of each pariſh a proper reſervation ſhould be made of the natural wood, for the ſake of attracting the clouds, and thereby producing the ſeaſonable rains ſo neceſſary in a warm climate, and for want of which ſome iſlands, where the woods have been totally extirpated, have greatly ſuffered in their crops †. After all theſe reſervations, it was propoſed, that the remaining lands ſhould be aſſorted into lots, moſtly from 100 to 300 acres, and a few as large as 400 or 500 acres, allowing, as far as the ground would admit, an equal proportion of the natural conveniencies to every lot, and extending them length-ways from the ſhore or river into the interior country; and alſo that ſuch parts of each pariſh as were unfit for ſugar plantations, ſhould be diſtributed into ſmall lots of from ten to thirty acres for the encouragement of poor ſettlers, and for promoting the ſpeedy population of the iſland.

all its branches, from the manufacturer to the exporter, who feels it ſeverely in victualling his ſhips, as ſeveral merchants declared in the courſe of this ſame inquiry. But if we were proſperous in March 1764, by this ſtandard we muſt have been more than doubly proſperous in March 1799, the price of meat being more than double of what was complained of in 1763 as enormous.

No one can rejoice more than myſelf at the proſperity of my country; yet I cannot help feeling for the ſituation of all thoſe who cannot increaſe their income to keep pace with the proſperity of the dealers in proviſions, and are conſequently not quite half ſo rich now with an income of the ſame number of pounds, as they were ſo lately as the year 1763. Dean Swift, in his *Maxims controlled in Ireland*, has made it appear, that the price of lands, which is in reality the price of proviſions, may riſe, when a country is far from being in a flouriſhing condition.

* Repeated attempts were made by the Engliſh and by the Dutch to ſettle Tobago; and a duke of Courland alſo made an effort here to come in for a ſhare of the Weſt-Indian iſlands with the greater ſovereigns of Europe. [*Raynal Hiſt. phil. et polit. V.* vii, *p.* 302, *ed.* 1782.—*Campbell's political ſurvey*, *V.* ii, *p.* 690.]

† Raynal thinks the preſervation of the woods alſo neceſſary to health, and he aſcribes the great mortality of the Europeans on the firſt ſettlement of the iſlands to the injudicious practice of cutting down all the trees, and clearing the ground faſter than they could cultivate it. [*Hiſt. V.* vii, *p.* 305.]

Grenada contains, by eſtimation, 67,425 acres, of which above one half was now actually in cultivation, the produce of the year 1762, in ſugar eſteemed of the beſt quality, rum, coffee, cacao, and melaſſes, having amounted to £200,000 *. The interior part is mountainous, and covered with uſeful wood. The iſland contains ſix pariſhes, in each of which there is a town, about 3500 white inhabitants, and about 10,000 negro ſlaves.

The Grenadillas, or Grenadines, are a chain of ſmall iſlands extending between Grenada and St. Vincent, the chief of which, Cariacou and Bequia, produced cotton and cacao.

St. Vincent is mountainous with a mixture of large tracts of good land, eſpecially near the ſea and on the gentle ſlopes of the hills. It was partly occupied by the aboriginal Caribs with a mixture of Negroes, ſuppoſed to be from four to five thouſand in number, who were quite independent, and very jealous of any European ſettlement upon their iſland. There were, however, a good many ſettlements made by the French, who were computed to be about 1300 white people, and 3400 blacks. They had a conſiderable ſtock of ſheep, horned cattle, and working beaſts; and their principal articles of produce were cacao, coffee, and tobacco. The ſame mode of ſettlement, propoſed for Tobago, is recommended for this iſland; only that the good will of the independent Caribs and Negroes muſt be ſedulouſly cultivated, and unjuſt encroachments upon them moſt carefully avoided.

Dominica contains about 300,000 acres of good and fertile land, well watered with 83 rivers or rivulets, ſufficient for driving ſugar mills; but it is not ſo well adapted for ſugar, on account of the mountains which almoſt entirely cover it. The land already cleared on the coaſt was reckoned about ſix thouſand acres, producing annually about 1,690,000 pounds of coffee, 270,000 pounds of cacao, and 17,000 pounds of cotton, the value of which was above £70,000. The number of inhabitants was 1718 whites, 5872 blacks †, and about 60 families of free Caribs. The iſland was already divided by the French into ten diſtricts or pariſhes: and the plan propoſed for its ſettlement was nearly the ſame with that for Tobago; only that, as it ſeemed not equally well adapted for ſugar plantations ‡, and becauſe it lies between the French iſlands of Martinique and Guadaloupe, a ſtrong population

* The importance of Grenada, even before the inſtitution of regular government in it, may be ſeen from the account of its exports from 20th January 1763 til 25th January 1764, which were 66,579 cwt. of ſugar, 206 hogſheads of rum, 1,707,305 pounds of coffee, 278,749 pounds of cacao, 166,686 pounds of cotton, and 2640 hogſheads of melaſſes.

† Raynal reckons only 600 whites and 2000 blacks in Dominica in the year 1763. If both accounts are correct, the difference may be ſuppoſed to proceed from the acceſſion of Britiſh ſettlers after the conqueſt. But he reckons only 1574 whites of all ages on the 1ſt of January 1778, with 574 free mulattoes and blacks, and 14,308 ſlaves. [*Hiſt. V.* vii, *p.* 317.]

‡ For many years bypaſt Dominica has produced very good ſugar and rum.

of white people ought by all means to be encouraged; and therefor, after the public lands were reſerved, it was propoſed to make a diſtribution into lots generally not exceeding 100 acres, allowing, however, a few more extenſive lots in ſome places fit for ſugar.

In order to prevent a monopoly of lands by jobbing purchaſers, it was propoſed, that no perſon ſhould be allowed to hold above 500 acres; and at the ſame time, to remove every poſſibility of partiality in giving gratuitous grants, that the cleared lands, occupied by the French planters, ſhould be leaſed to them in quantities not exceeding 500 acres on moderate quit-rents, on their taking the neceſſary oaths to qualify them as Britiſh ſubjects; that the uncultivated lands, and alſo the cultivated lands veſted in the crown, ſhould be ſold by auction, the former being put up at ſo low a price as to be almoſt equal to a gratuitous grant, while at the ſame time the nature of the ſale would permit every one to be an offerer *, and as far as poſſible prevent undue influence and favour, the purchaſers being bound to certain conditions of cultivation, and to the payment of an annual quit-rent of *6d* for every acre of cleared land, from which ſettlers of lots of 30 acres or under ſhould be excuſed for four years.

The town lots, not already cleared, were to be given gratis, on condition of clearing and building, and paying one penny annually for every foot in front, and *6d* for every acre of the paſture lots annexed to each town lot. The town lots, already cleared, were to be ſold by auction, ſubject to ground-rents and quit-rents, as the others.

Such were the report of the lords of trade and plantations upon the ſtate of the ceded iſlands, and their propoſals for the ſettlement of them; agreeable to which a proclamation was iſſued (March 26th), ſetting forth the terms of purchaſe and payment, viz. 20 per cent to be paid immediately, whereupon a bill of ſale was to be given, and the remainder to be paid by inſtallments of 10 per cent the firſt year, 10 per cent the ſecond year, and 20 per cent each year after, till the whole ſhould be paid up. The purchaſers of cleared grounds to have one white man, or two white women, on every hundred acres, on penalty of £40 for every man, or £20 for every woman, deficient. The purchaſers of uncleared land to clear every year at leaſt one twentieth part of their lots, till a half of the whole were cleared, on penalty of £5 for every acre neglected to be ſo cleared; and, as faſt as the ground was cleared, to have the ſame proportion of white men or women ſettled on their lands. The lots reſerved for poor ſettlers, after four years to be ſubject to a quit-rent of *6d* for every acre cleared, and *2ſ* for every acre uncleared, and not to be alienated for ſeven years, except to the children of the grantees.

* The nature of a ſale by auction alſo tempts every bidder, in caſe of a keen competition, to offer more than the value: and it is the opinion of many, that that was actually the caſe at theſe ſales.

Diſputes having ariſen between the Engliſh and French fiſhermen at Newfoundland, and both governments being deſirous to avoid a national quarrel, the French ambaſſador preſented to the Britiſh government ſome propoſitions relating to the concurrent fiſhery on a part of the coaſt of Newfoundland, ſtipulated by the treaty of peace. The king thereupon ſent additional inſtructions to Commodore Palliſer, the governor of that iſland, directing him to obſerve the ſtricteſt impartiality between the ſubjects of the two nations with reſpect to their ſhares of the grounds for drying their fiſh, and to prevent any injury to the perſons or properties of the French fiſhermen (March 30th).

April 5th—For the encouragement of the manufacture of hats, the law, allowing beaver to draw back the duty when exported, was repealed: and moreover, a duty of 7*d* was laid on every beaver ſkin or piece of beaver ſkin, and of 1/6 on every pound of beaver wool exported, the beaver ſkins paying when imported, a duty of only one penny each. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 9.]

The laws for encouraging the manufacture of Britiſh ſail-cloth and gun-powder, and for encouraging the importation of timber, and the articles of wood commonly called lumber, being nearly expired, were all continued in force till the end of the firſt ſeſſion of parliament after 29th September 1771. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 11.]

The laws for regulating pilots for the River Thames—for allowing rum or ſpirits, the produce of the Britiſh plantations, to be landed and warehouſed before the exciſe duties are paid—that againſt forcibly reſiſting the revenue officers—and that allowing ſugars of the Britiſh colonies to be carried directly to foreign parts in ſhips built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law, were all prolonged; that for the pilots to the end of the next ſeſſion after 25th March 1778, and the others to the ſame term with thoſe in the preceding act. By the ſame act of parliament thoſe found guilty of damaging banks, flood-gates, or other works belonging to rivers and ſtreams made navigable, were ordered to be tranſported for ſeven years. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 12.]

In an act for taking two millions out of the ſinking fund, the allowance of twelve per cent for leakage of wines was reſcinded from all wines imported from any other place than that of their growth, the merchants of Jerſey and Guernſey having made a practice of filling up their wines in thoſe iſlands, and then receiving the allowance for leakage as well as others. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 13.]

The following is the preamble of an act for granting duties in the colonies.

'Whereas it is expedient, that new duties and regulations ſhould be 'eſtabliſhed for improving the revenue of this kingdom, and for ex-'tending and ſecuring the navigation and commerce between Great 'Britain and your Majeſty's dominions in America, which by the peace

'have been ſo happily enlarged: and whereas it is juſt and neceſſary, 'that a revenue be raiſed in your Majeſty's ſaid dominions in America 'for defraying the expences of defending, protecting, and ſecuring the 'ſame, We, your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the com- 'mons of Great Britain in parliament aſſembled, being deſirous of 'making ſome proviſion in this preſent ſeſſion of parliament towards 'raiſing the ſaid revenue in America, have reſolved to give and grant 'unto your Majeſty the ſeveral rates and duties herein after mention- 'ed,' viz. after 29th September 1764, on the following goods landed in America.

	£	s	d
White or clayed ſugar, the produce of foreign colonies to pay over and above all former duties, per cwt.	1	2	0
Indigo of foreign growth, per lb.	0	0	6
Coffee, from any place except Great Britain, per cwt.	2	19	9
Wine from Maderia, or any other *iſland*, whence wine may lawfully be imported, per tun	7	0	0
Wine of Portugal or Spain, or any other wine except French			
French, imported from Great Britain, per tun	0	10	0
Silk, or ſtuff mixed with ſilk, made in Perſia, China, India, imported from Great Britain, per pound weight	0	2	0
Calico made in Perſia, &c. imported from Britain, per piece	0	2	6
Cambric, foreign made, imported from Britain, per piece	0	3	0
French lawn imported from Britain, per piece	0	3	0

Such were the duties enacted to be paid on the importation into the colonies. The following were to be levied on the produce of the Britiſh colonies, when ſhipped for any place whatever, except Great Britain.

	£	s	d
Coffee of the Britiſh iſlands, per cwt.	0	7	0
Pimento of the Britiſh iſlands, per lb.	0	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$

At the ſame time the act, [6 *Geo. II, c.* 13] for better ſecuring and encouraging the trade of his Majeſty's ſugar colonies in America, was made perpetual, with the following alterations.

Melaſſes and ſyrups, the produce of foreign colonies, if carried to his Majeſty's colonies in America, to pay threepence per gallon, inſtead of the former duty of ſixpence, which was generally eluded.

All theſe duties payable in America to be paid into his Majeſty's exchequer in bullion, and to be kept apart and appropriated for the defence of the colonies.

No ſugars were allowed to be imported into Ireland, but directly from Great Britain.

The remainder of this act moſt ſtrictly guards the trade of the American colonies, and condemns to forfeiture all veſſels found hovering on the coaſt of America (except French veſſels near the tolerated part of Newfoundland) and all Britiſh veſſels found ſtanding into, or coming

out of the French iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in the Gulf of St. Laurence. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 15.]

Agreeable to the ſpirit of this law, all the officers of the ſhips of war, ſtationed on the coaſts of America and the Weſt-Indies were made to take the cuſtom-houſe oaths, and act as revenue officers for the prevention of ſmuggling. But the alertneſs and activity, which thoſe gentlemen had lately exerted with ſo much advantage and honour to themſelves and their country in taking prizes from the enemy, were more prejudicial than ſerviceable to the general intereſts of commerce in their new employment. Little acquainted, as may be ſuppoſed, with rules, which require long ſtudy and practice to underſtand them, and ſtill leſs with the prudential reaſons, which had hitherto induced a relaxation of the rigour of the law in caſes, where a judicious overlooking was for the national advantage, they eagerly and indiſcriminately ſeized every veſſel they found in the ſmalleſt degree tranſgreſſing the ſtrict letter of the law, the interpretation of which was in * a great meaſure in their own hands.

The old northern colonies in America, it is well known, have very few articles fit for the Britiſh market; and yet they every year took off large quantities of merchandize from Great Britain, for which they made payments with tolerable regularity †. Though they could not, like the Spaniſh coloniſts, dig the money out of their own ſoil, they found means to make a great part of their remittances in gold and ſilver dug out of the Spaniſh mines. This they effected by being general carriers, and by a circuitous commerce, carried on in ſmall veſſels, chiefly with the foreign Weſt-India ſettlements, to which they carried lumber of all ſorts, fiſh of an inferior quality, beef, pork, butter, horſes, poultry and other live ſtock, an inferior kind of tobacco, corn, flour, bread, cyder, and even apples, cabbages, onions, &c. and alſo veſſels built at a ſmall expenſe, the materials being almoſt all within themſelves; for which they received in return moſtly ſilver and gold, ſome of which remained as current coin among themſelves; but the greateſt part was remitted home to Britain, and, together with bills of exchange generally remitted to London for the proceeds of their beſt fiſh, ſold in the Roman-catholic countries of Europe, ſerved to pay for the goods they received from the mother country. This trade united all the advantages, which the wiſeſt and moſt philanthropic philoſopher, or the

* In caſes of improper ſeizure redreſs might be ſought by appeal to the boards of admiralty or treaſury at home; which, conſidering the delay and diſtance, and the circumſtances of the plaintiffs and the defendents, could very ſeldom be productive of any redreſs. There was, however, at leaſt one inſtance of a cauſe being tried before the ſuperior court at New-York in the year 1766 for the value of a ſhip and cargo ſeized in the year 1763 by a captain of the navy, at the ſuit of the owner, who obtained a verdict for £4046 with coſts.

† The tables of imports and exports will ſhow, how large a balance was paid by New-England, New-York, and Pennſylvania; while Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and in later years Georgia, ſometimes received a balance from Britain.

moſt enlightened legiſlator, could wiſh to derive from commerce. It gave bread to the induſtrious in North America by carrying off their lumber, which muſt otherwiſe rot on their hands, and their fiſh, great part of which without it would be abſolutely unſaleable, together with their ſpare produce and ſtock of every kind; it furniſhed the Weſt-India planters with thoſe articles, without which the operations of their plantations muſt be at a ſtand; and it produced a fund for employing a great number of induſtrious manufacturers in Great Britain; thus taking off the ſuperfluities, providing for the neceſſities, and promoting the happineſs, of all concerned *. This trade, however, was almoſt entirely ruined by the rigorous execution of the new orders againſt ſmuggling, and the collection of the duties in hard ſilver, which ſoon drained the country of any little real money circulating in it. And, as if government had intended to prevent the coloniſts from having even the ſhadow of money, another act was paſſed, in a few days after that for the new duties, declaring that no paper bills, to be thenceforth iſſued, ſhould be made a legal tender in payment, and enjoining thoſe in circulation to be ſunk (that is, paid off in hard money) at the limited time.

North America was not, however, the only quarter of the Britiſh dominions diſtreſſed by theſe meaſures.

For a long courſe of years the Spaniſh coloniſts in America had been accuſtomed to reſort to the neighbouring ſettlements to purchaſe European goods, the price of which the jealous policy of their own government rendered moſt oppreſſively exorbitant in the courſe of their regular trade. Jamaica had a principal ſhare in this beneficial commerce, wherein the Spaniards in their ſmall coaſting veſſels brought over ſome mules and cattle (articles more valuable to the planters than ſilver or gold) cochineal, indigo, ſome medicinal drugs, and gold and ſilver, coined and uncoined, to the value of ten or twenty times the amount of their little cargoes. In return they purchaſed linens of every kind, calicoes, and almoſt every article of Britiſh manufacture, which they carried home at the riſk of confiſcation and corporal puniſhment if detected, and uſually made very great profits, notwithſtanding the diſadvantages attending purchaſes at ſecond hand, and the heavy expenſes inſeparable from clandeſtine trade.

This trade, ſo eminently valuable in ſupplying Jamaica and the other iſlands with an abundant ſtock of the pretious metals for their internal

* The nature and effects of this trade are explained more fully in *An eſſay on the trade of the northern colonies*, printed in Philadelphia, and reprinted in London, 1764.

I do not mean to vindicate the Americans from the charge of ſmuggling. I know that vaſt quantities of goods were imported in direct violation of the letter and ſpirit of the law, and of the commercial ſyſtem, of the mother country. But how could it be otherways in a country ſo remote from the government, to which it profeſſed allegiance, and poſſeſſing an extent of coaſt, which no chain of revenue cruiſers, that could be ſupported by government, would be ſufficient to guard with any kind of effect?

circulation (they have no paper money) and alſo for remittances to Britain, beſides taking off a vaſt quantity of goods, which would otherways have been bought from the French or Dutch, and not in the ſmalleſt degree offending againſt any of the revenue laws, was ſtill *illegal;* becauſe no foreign veſſels were allowed to enter the ports of any of the colonies, *unleſs forced in by diſtreſs;* a plea which had been conſtantly alleged, and admitted without any queſtion.

But now in conſequence of the great zeal and activity of the navy officers, who, in rigorous obſervance of the act 4 *Geo. III, c.* 15, ſeized ſome of the Spaniſh veſſels *, and alſo of inſtructions ſent to the governors for the ſuppreſſion of illicit trade, whereby they were obliged to prohibit all foreign veſſels from entering the Britiſh harbours in the Weſt-Indies, this moſt beneficial commerce was completely aboliſhed; and the merchants in Jamaica were involved in great difficulties by the ſudden and unexpected prohibition.

The effects of the reſtrictions upon the trade of the northern colonies were ſuch as were ſcarcely expected on this ſide of the water. Becauſe the wool of the American ſheep is much inferior to Engliſh wool, it was, rather raſhly, ſuppoſed, that the people of America muſt continue to wear Engliſh cloth; not adverting, that, if they could not pay for cloth made by others, they muſt of neceſſity wear what they could make themſelves, and that, where all wore coarſe cloth, no one could be aſhamed of the uſe of it. Beſides, they were already ſo much indebted to the mother country, that, if the ſources of their remittances were to be cut off, there muſt immediately be an end of importation, whether they choſe it, or not. They therefor entered into aſſociations, wherein it was reſolved at once to retrench all ſuperfluous expenſes (and particularly funeral mournings) and to encourage every ſpecies of manufactures: and they actually ſet about it with ſo much ardour, that they ſoon produced ſuch ſpecimens, as emboldened them to think, they could, in caſe of neceſſity, live comfortably without depending upon foreign trade for any of the neceſſaries or conveniencies of life.

April 18th—For the encouragement of the fiſhery in the province of Quebec, ſalt from any part of Europe was allowed to be imported for one year into that province in Britiſh veſſels navigated according to law, in the ſame manner as to New-England and Newfoundland. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 19.]

The committee of merchants trading to Africa, who had the management of the Britiſh intereſt on that coaſt inſtead of the late African company, having repreſented to government, that the annual allowance

* Mr. Edwards in his valuable *Hiſtory of the Weſt-Indies* [*p.* 232, *ed.* 1794] very juſtly obſerves, that this was 'a meaſure which in truth was converting our navy into *guarda-coſtas* for the king of Spain;' and that in conſequence thereof, the exports from Great Britain to Jamaica in the year 1765 fell ſhort of the year 1763 £168,000 ſterling. And it appears from the cuſtom-houſe accounts, that the exports in the year 1766 fell even a little lower than thoſe of 1765. In 1767 they began to riſe.

of £800, which the company had been permitted to deduct from the public money under their direction for ſalaries, houſe-rent and other charges, was inſufficient, they were now by law indulged with a further allowance of £400 a year for the ſalaries of their clerks and agents in London, Briſtol, and Liverpool, the rent of their office in London, and all charges of management in England. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 20.]

The bounties and encouragements formerly given to the Greenland whale fiſhery were continued till 25th December 1767, and after that to the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 22.]

Till now the letters, which were franked, or exempted from paying poſtage, were ſigned by the members of the two houſes of parliament, or other privileged perſons, only at the corner of a blank cover, on which the writer of the letter added the addreſs. This manner of franking was ſubject not only to forgery, but to many other abuſes *, whereby the revenue of the poſt-office was greatly injured. It was therefor now enacted, that after the 1ſt day of May 1764, no letters ſhould be exempted from paying poſtage, except thoſe ſent from, or to, the king, all letters, not exceeding two ounces in weight, ſent to any part of Great Britain or Ireland during the ſeſſion of parliament, or within forty days before, or forty days after, any ſummons or prorogation of the ſame, *the whole* of the ſuperſcription being in the hand-writing of a member of the houſe of lords or houſe of commons, and alſo all letters ſent to the members. Letters ſent to moſt of the public offices † in Great Britain, Ireland and America, or ſent from them, ſealed with the office ſeal or the ſeal of the principal officer, were alſo exempted from poſtage. And the printed votes and proceedings of parliament, and newſpapers, were permitted to go free, being put in covers open at the ends, and franked by certain clerks of the ſecretary of ſtate's office, or certain officers of the poſt-office. Forgery of franks was rendered puniſhable by tranſportation for ſeven years. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 24.] In the examination previous to paſſing this act it appeared, that the poſtage of franked letters on an average of ſeveral years paſt, was equal to £170,000 a year; a great part of which was by the new regulation added to the revenue.

In order to obtain a cheaper and ſurer ſupply of hemp and flax, and to encourage the cultivation of it in the American colonies, the parliament granted a bounty of £8 on every tun of clean merchantable hemp, or rough flax, imported from the Britiſh American colonies from 24th June 1764 to 24th June 1771, and thence to 24th June 1778 a bounty of £6, and thereafter to 24th June 1785 of £4; the pre-emption of all ſuch hemp and flax being offered to the commiſſioners of the navy, and

* It was common for the ſervants of members to aſk their maſters to ſign great numbers of franks at a time, which they openly ſold to people, who made a trade of retailing them. 4

† The offices are enumerated in the act.

twenty days being allowed for their determination before the importer could be at liberty to ſell it to a private buyer. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

Rice was allowed to be carried from South Carolina and Georgia, in veſſels belonging to Britiſh ſubjects, directly to any part of America ſouthward of Georgia, on paying one half ſubſidy, which was equivalent to the duty remaining, if the rice were brought to Britain and re-ſhipped on a drawback. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

In order to prevent proviſions from being raiſed to an exorbitant price, the king was empowered, with the advice of his privy council, to permit the importation of ſalted beef, pork, bacon, and butter, from Ireland, ſuch proviſions paying at landing a duty on the ſalt employed in curing them. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 28.]

For the encouragement of the whale fiſhery in the River St. Laurence, the fins of whales, caught in that river, and on the coaſts of Britiſh America, were allowed to be imported on paying only the old ſubſidy directed by the act 25 *Car. II, c.* 7. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

Whereas ſome merchants, bankers, and other traders, within the ſtatutes relating to bankrupts, having privilege of parliament, had claimed exemption from the bankrupt laws, it was now enacted, that ſuch traders ſhould be liable to a commiſſion of bankruptcy as well as others. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 33.]

The Engliſh linen company was eſtabliſhed as a corporate body, chiefly for the purpoſe of making cambrics and lawns of the kind called French lawns, with a joint capital ſtock which ſhould not exceed £100,000. The goods, in order to certify them to be of Engliſh manufacture were to be ſealed at each end of the piece by proper officers, before they were taken out of the loom. [4 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

A great improvement in the ſpinning wheel, whereby a child may ſpin twice as much as a grown perſon can do with the common wheel, was invented by Mr. Harriſon, for which the patriotic ſociety for the encouragement of arts and commerce gave him a premium of fifty pounds.

The convention of royal burghs of Scotland repreſented to the king, that the agriculture and manufactures of the country required the labour of all the working hands in it, and therefor prayed he would revoke a licence that had been given to the Dutch of recruiting their army in Scotland. The country muſt be in a wretched condition indeed, which exports its natives. Such is the condition of a great part of Africa. But may it never more be ſuch of any part of the Britiſh dominions.

During the war a veſſel belonging to Liverpool, having parted with her convoy, was taken by the enemy; whereupon the owners applied to the underwriters for her value, who refuſed to pay it. On the matter being brought before Lord chief juſtice Pratt (afterwards Lord Camden)

it appeared, that the veſſel had intentionally parted from the fleet; and therefor it was determined by a ſpecial jury, that the underwriters were not liable for the loſs (May 14th.) This deciſion, as being a precedent in a matter of great commercial importance, is worthy of this brief notice.

It may be conſidered as a convincing proof of the increaſing proſperity of London, that a piece of waſte ground in Picadilly, which a brewer had bought ſome years before at the price of £30 for putting his caſks and lumber in, was now ſold for £2,500.

For ſome years the French Eaſt-India company had been very rapidly declining, notwithſtanding a dividend of 40 livres on each ſhare and other advantages allowed them by the king; who now alſo made them a preſent of 11,835 ſhares belonging to himſelf, and empowered them to make a call on the proprietors for 400 livres on each of the 38,433 remaining ſhares, which raiſed them to 1600 livres, and in conſideration thereof to raiſe their dividend to 80 livres a ſhare, and to reduce ſuch proprietors as ſhould refuſe to anſwer that call to five eights of the new ſhare. At the ſame time he relieved them of the burthen of the iſles of France and Bourbon, the direction of which, like that of the other colonies, he committed to the department of the marine *.

July 7th—The king of Denmark deſirous of drawing a trade to his Weſt-India poſſeſſions, eſtabliſhed free ports in his iſlands of St. Thomas and St. John †, on the following conditions.

European merchandize to be carried thither only by the king of Denmark's European ſhips furniſhed with paſſports, and to pay two per cent ad valorem on importation. American produce to be admitted in veſſels of any nation, and to pay five per cent of the uſual duty; and ſuch veſſels may export any goods free of duty. But no veſſels are permitted to go from theſe iſlands to St. Croix for a cargo.—Produce imported into theſe iſlands to be carried to Europe only in the Daniſh paſſport ſhips, and to be landed only in Denmark or the Daniſh provinces.—Thoſe foreign productions to be exempted from foreign duty; but the produce of St. Thomas and St. John to pay five per cent.—Frauds to be puniſhed by confiſcation and fines.—Foreign ſugars, brought from theſe iſlands to the Daniſh ſtates, ſhall remain only till they can be exported again, paying a duty of one per cent.

The Spaniſh governor of Yucatan having given ſome trouble to the Britiſh logwood-cutters at the Bay of Honduras, and even driven ſome of them away, on pretence that they had no certificates of their being Britiſh ſubjects, and that they made too free with the produce of the country, proper remonſtrances were made to the Spaniſh court, who ex-

* This new arrangement, made an annual ſaving of two millions of livres to the company, without affecting their excluſive commerce with the iſlands in the ſmalleſt degree. [*Raynal Hiſt. phil. et pol.* V. ii, *p.* 322.]

† The Daniſh iſlands in the Weſt-Indies are moſtly owned, cultivated, and inhabited, by Britiſh planters and merchants. Their newſpapers are printed in Daniſh and Engliſh, every article being expreſſed twice.

preſsly diſavowed the conduct of the governor, and gave aſſurances, that freſh orders ſhould be ſent to him to give no interruption to the Britiſh logwood-cutters, to re-eſtabliſh thoſe he had expelled from their ſettlements, and to adhere ſtrictly to the ſtipulations in the 17th article of the treaty of peace; all which was ſoon after performed with the greateſt punctuality. And thus a little ſtorm, which ſome clamorous politicians had attempted to magnify into a very ſerious affair, was happily blown over.

Accounts received from Jamaica contained the following ſtatement of the condition of that important iſland.

From Chriſtmas 1752 to Chriſtmas 1762 there were imported 71,115 negroes, ſold on an average at £30 ſterling.

During ten years paſt there were imported from Madeira about 630 pipes of wine annually. The annual value of proviſions imported from Ireland was about £100,000 ſterling. During the war the annual amount of proviſions, lumber, live ſtock, &c. imported from North America was about £200,000 currency *, of which about one quarter was paid in produce, and the other three quarters † in money or bills of exchange, which the Americans uſually carried to the French part of Hiſpaniola ‡, the produce of which was at a very low price during the war.

The population of Jamaica was now ſo much increaſed as to be eſti-

* The exchange being 40 per cent upon ſterling money, this ſum amounts to £142,857 : 2 : 10 ſterling.

† According to Lord Sheffield, the following is the calculation of the proportion of produce taken by the North-American traders in their dealings at Kingſton in Jamaica. Thoſe of the Carolinas and ſouthern provinces took rather more than half; Pennſylvania and the other middle provinces about one fourth, and the balance in caſh and bills of exchange; the New-England provinces not above one tenth, and the balance in dollars, which they immediately carried to Hiſpaniola, &c. He adds, that American veſſels uſed to clear out empty hogſheads at the cuſtom-houſe, which they filled with ſugar, &c. at the foreign iſlands, and thereby evaded the foreign duty in America: and that the New-Englanders uſed to purchaſe Jamaica produce with doubloons manufactured at Boſton, but as ſoon as the legiſlature of the iſland put a ſtop to the circulation of them, they gave up buying produce. [*Obſervations on the commerce of the American ſtates, p.* 178, *ed.* 1784.]

‡ A principal article of the purchaſes of the Americans there was melaſſes, which they could not buy in Jamaica, where it is ſo valuable for the purpoſe of converting it into rum, and which they could buy on very low terms from the French planters, who, before this market opened to them, ſometimes threw it away, as I have been told, the plenty of wine and brandy from France, and the diſcouragement of the diſtillery by their government, rendering it of no value to them. The melaſſes bore a great profit in America, vaſt quantities being expended in families, and, probably, ſtill more in the diſtilleries.

Of the ſpirits diſtilled from it, a great quantity went to Africa for the purchaſe of negroes, who were generally ſold in the Weſt-India iſlands, and the proceeds remitted to Britain in bills of exchange: ſo that the French melaſſes thus became the raw material of a trade, very favourable, in point of balance at leaſt, to Great Britain.

As, according to the ſoundeſt maxims of trade, raw materials for manufactures may be bought with advantage from foreigners, the acquiſition of melaſſes from the French (rather than from our own planters, who know better what to do with it) was evidently as advantageous (if the diſtillery is allowed to be a beneficial, and not a pernicious, manufacture) as the acquiſition of raw ſilk, flax, hemp, iron, ſaltpetre, &c. There is no doubt, that ſome articles of French manufacture were carried to America along with the melaſſes: but, if we allow our rivals in trade to underſell us in any article, a preference in the ſale of ſuch article is the unavoidable conſequence.

mated at 15,000 white people, excluſive of the military and naval eſtabliſhments and the ſeafaring people; 4000 free people of colour; and, according to the returns made in the year 1762, 146,464 ſlaves.

As it was found inconſiſtent with the intereſts of the Britiſh commerce, and moſt particularly of that of Jamaica, to prohibit the reſort of Spaniſh veſſels, inſtructions were ſent to the governor and the admiral on the ſtation, ſignifying, that Spaniſh veſſels, coming into Jamaica *by reaſon of diſtreſs, or for refreſhments, as formerly*, ſhould receive the aſſiſtance they had formerly been allowed, provided they did not attempt to bring in foreign merchandize. And ſimilar inſtructions were ſent to the governors of the other colonies, which uſed to be viſited by Spaniſh veſſels.

But the public deliberations on the regulation of a trade, which had formerly been allowed ſilently and quietly to regulate itſelf, could not poſſibly eſcape the watchful attention of the Spaniſh ambaſſador. The conſequence was, that the government of Spain, in order to counteract our policy, now for the firſt time laid open the trade to their iſlands to their own ſubjects in all the provinces of Spain, by permitting the free exportation of goods, on payment of moderate duties, to Trinidad, Puerto-rico, Hiſpaniola, and Cuba. But it does not appear, that this meaſure, however promiſing and apparently liberal, was productive of much benefit to the Spaniards, few of whom poſſeſſed ſufficient ſpirit, or means, to avail themſelves of the indulgence to ſuch an extent, as to ſupply their colonies with proper aſſortments of goods, qualified to come in competition with the Britiſh manufactures, which ſtill preſerved ſuch an aſcendant in the demand among the Spaniſh Weſt-Indians, as tempted them to brave all the dangers and penalties they were liable to, if detected in ſmuggling them.

The culture of ſilk was unſucceſsful in Georgia this year, owing to unfavourable weather in March and April. The quantity brought to the public filature was 15,126 pounds of cocoons, being 360 leſs than the produce of the preceding year. At this time the Georgia ſilk was complained of in London, as being too round and ſpungy, owing to its being wound from too many cocoons at once.

The continent of America, from the mouth of the Miſſiſippi to the frozen ſea of Greenland, being now ſubject to Great Britain, it was thought expedient, that accurate ſurveys ſhould be made of all its coaſts, harbours, and rivers; for which purpoſes Meſſrs. Samuel Holland and William de Brahm were commiſſioned as ſurveyors-general of America, the river Potowmak with a line running weſt from the head of its main ſtream being the boundary between their diſtricts. The iſlands in the Gulf of St. Laurence were recommended to the earlieſt attention of Mr. Holland, as the peninſula of Eaſt Florida was to that of Mr. De Brahm.

This year the parliament of Ireland entered in good earneſt upon the

important buſineſs of the herring fiſhery. One of the members obſerved, that 'Hitherto the greateſt impediments to the progreſs of the Britiſh fiſheries carried on from Scotland have been the ill calculated laws, reſtrictions, and duties, laid upon ſalt uſed in curing of herrings. Let not therefor inſignificant ſalt duties be a ſtumbling-block with us. As we have ſeen the abſurdity in others, let ſuch proviſion be made at ſtarting, as may prevent any ſuch accident from blaſting the firſt progreſs of the Iriſh fiſheries.'

An immediate conſequence of the parliamentary encouragement given to the Iriſh fiſhery was, that Ireland took from Britain only about 16,000 barrels of herrings on an average of ſeven years, inſtead of about 23,000, the average quantity for a number of years previous to 1764. It is true, that the quantity imported by Ireland from the Eaſt country increaſed after this year: but that is accounted for by the very low price the Swedes were enabled to ſell their herrings at by the wonderful plenty upon their coaſt, which made it an object for the Iriſh to procure them for re-ſhipping to the Weſt-Indies.

The iſle of Mann, by being independent of the Britiſh revenue laws, had become a great magazine of foreign merchandize, vaſt quantities of which uſed to be ſmuggled into the three Britiſh kingdoms, to all of which it is almoſt equally near. Therefor a number of ſhips of war and cutters were now ſtationed around the coaſts of it, in order to prevent ſo great an injury to the revenue and to the fair trader.

The whale fiſhery at Greenland proved very indifferent this ſeaſon. The Britiſh ſhips got very few fiſh, many of them none at all: and the Dutch got only 117, leſs than half of their uſual number. As ſome compenſation for their diſappointment in Greenland, they fell in, near the iſland of Rona *, about 40 miles north-north-eaſt from the iſland of Lewis, with a ſmall ſpecies of whales, and caught thirty-two of them, which were reckoned equal to five or ſix ſizeable Greenland whales. Thus have the Dutch diſcovered another *gold mine* in our ſeas, which our own people in the adjacent iſlands unfortunately want the knowlege and the means to avail themſelves of by going after the whales, and are obliged to content themſelves with now and then making a prize of a ſhole of them, when they in a manner call upon them to take them by getting embayed in ſmall inlets among the iſlands †.

* From Rona there runs a bank towards Tillhead in Ireland, which Sir William Monſon [*Naval Tracts*, *B.* iv] ſays, affords a great quantity of the beſt cod and ling: but he complains that it had been neglected for above a century. Other two centuries have ſince elapſed, and, *Quere*, Is it not ſtill neglected?

† 'Spout whales and pellacks run in great number upon the ſhore, and are taken; as in the year 1691, near Kairſton in the Mainland, [Orkney] there run into a bay no leſs than 114 at once.' [*Wallace's Account of Orkney*, *p.* 37.] Martin, in his *Deſcription of the Weſtern iſlands*, frequently notices the plenty of whales among them.—In the iſland of Northmaven in Shetland 360 whales were driven aſhore in the year 1741, about 100 in the year 1791, and ſmaller numbers are uſual. [*Sir John Sinclair's Statiſtical account of Scotland*, *V.* xii, *p.* 362; and the accounts of ſeveral other inſular pariſhes in the ſame work agree in the frequent

June 1ſt—A French ſhip of ſixty guns, with ſeveral other veſſels under French colours, landed a number of men on the Turks iſlands, burnt and deſtroyed all the huts erected for the ſhelter of the ſalt-rakers, and after erecting two columns of ſtone, as monuments of *victory*, or proofs of ſovereignty, they left the place, carrying with them all the Britiſh ſubjects and ſhipping, which conſiſted of fourteen ſmall ſloops and ſchooners, and leaving a few of their people in poſſeſſion of the iſlands.

Theſe ſmall iſlands or keys, which, ſince the firſt ſettlement of Carolina, were reckoned an appendage of that province, as being a part of the Bahama iſlands *, were only uſeful for the great quantity of excellent ſalt produced in ſhallow ponds every ſeaſon by the heat of the ſun, and had hitherto had no regular ſettlement formed upon them. In the proper ſeaſon they were reſorted to, chiefly by people from Bermuda, and a few from Jamaica, for the purpoſe of raking ſalt, and alſo by ſome veſſels from the northern colonies in America, which brought flour, proviſions, lumber, &c. to exchange for the ſalt.

The court of France, upon the application of our ambaſſador, diſavowed the act of the comte D'Eſtaign, the governor of their portion of St. Domingo (or Hiſpaniola), who, if he really had no orders from his court, may have ſuppoſed, that, as thoſe ſmall iſlands were nearer to his own, than to any other, ſeat of government, they ought to belong to it, and, as unoccupied territory, ought to become the property of any who would occupy them. But, as they were too trifling an object to go to war for, eſpecially ſo ſoon after the concluſion of a peace, D'Eſtaign was ordered to reſtore them, and to make reparation for the damages done to the Britiſh ſubjects.

September—A ſomewhat ſimilar invaſion of Britiſh property was made by the French governor of Goree, in attempting a ſettlement near the river Gambia, which the French in like manner diſavowed, and even called him home to anſwer for his offence.

In conſequence of a petition of the merchants, complaining of the high price of proviſions, the king, by the advice of the privy council, and agreeable to the act lately paſſed, iſſued a proclamation for the free importation of ſalted beef, pork, and butter, from Ireland; and offered a reward of £100 for the diſcovery of any unlawful combinations to raiſe the price of proviſions (October 9th). The high price of corn alſo occaſioned ſome diſturbances about this time. In Derby-ſhire the colliers,

nppearance and plenty of the whales.]—Egede, in his *Deſcription of the Feeroes*, a cluſter of iſlands lying north-weſt from Shetland, [*p. 171 of the Engliſh tranſlation*] gives a ſimilar account of the plenty of whales among thoſe iſlands, and ſays, that about 1000 of them were taken in two places in the year 1664. The natives melt part of the fat of theſe ſmall whales for oil, and the remainder they cure in the manner of bacon, which, he ſays, is ſcarcely to be diſtinguiſhed from the bacon of pork. The lean part, in appearance and taſte, reſembles beef, and is uſed either freſh, or cured by drying.

* In the year 1695 a veſſel was ſeized by order of the proprietors of Carolina for not paying the tenth, claimed as due to them for raking ſalt on Turks iſlands.

finding wheat charged at 8/4 a buſhel, fixed the price at 5/ by their own authority, and cleared the market at that price. The gentlemen of York contributed a fund for importing foreign grain to be diſtributed to the poor, which, if there was a real ſcarcity, was at leaſt a well-intended charity; but, if the ſcarcity was artificial, it may be doubted, whether the application of a part of the money, for the purpoſe of enforcing the laws againſt the counteractors of God's bounty to mankind, would not have been a more effectual charity *.

The ſilk-weavers preſented a memorial to the lords of trade, ſetting forth their hardſhips ariſing from the importation of foreign wrought ſilks and velvets, and praying, that at leaſt double duties ſhould be laid on all ſuch goods.

At the ſame time the ſilk-throwſters and others in the ſilk trade preſented a memorial, ſtating, that the quantity of raw ſilk imported was not ſufficient to anſwer the demands of the trade.

A third memorial was preſented by the ſilk-mercers, who affirmed, that there was no want of employment, but a great want of hands to execute the work offered to the weavers.

There is a ſtrange contradiction in theſe three memorials. Parliament endeavoured to ſatisfy all parties by an act paſſed in the enſuing ſeſſion, which will be noticed in due time.

The following account was tranſmitted from Nova-Scotia of the exports of that province during the year 1764.

66,400 quintals of dried cod, value	£39,840
7200 barrels of pickled fiſh,	7,770
Lumber, to the amount of	700
Sole leather tanned at Halifax and Lunenburg,	200
6 tons of cheeſe,	280
Furs,	16,000
	£64,790
But 22,000 quintals of the cod were caught by the people of New-England, value	39,000
So that the exports really proceeding from the induſtry of Nova-Scotia are reduced to	£25,790

Moſt of the expenſes attending the late war being now paid off or

* If we may judge from the crowds that were to be ſeen waiting at the different places in and about London, where bread was given out below the market price in the year 1796, when the quartern loaf was at the enormous price of 1/3, we may probably be warranted to ſuppoſe, that the poor loſt more in the time walked in applying for the warrants and receiving the bread, than they ſaved by getting it fourpence under the price. And there is reaſon to believe that the more worthy part of the poor generally ſuffered the hardſhip in ſilence, from a principle of modeſty, which was in reality the beſt economy with regard to the value of their time.

funded, it may be proper to obſerve, that the capital of the national debt, which in the year 1755 was - - £72,289,673 0 0

was now, according to the accounts made up to 5th January 1764, - - 129,586,789 10 2
to which muſt be added the debt then remaining unfunded, - - - - 9,975,017 12 2

making the total debt - - £139,561,807 2 4
beſides which, there are annuities for terms of years and for lives, payable at the bank, the value of which muſt be changing every day.

But as the national creditors have no right to demand repayment of their capital from government, and as the real value of the capital is ſubject to dayly fluctuations, it ſeems more correct to reckon the national debt by the amount of the annual ſums actually paid to the creditors.

There were due to the ſtock-holders, or national creditors, on the 5th of January 1764, perpetual annuities (redeemable, however, in the option of government) to the annual amount of £4,195,032 18 7
and in terminable annuities, ſome for lives, others for limited terms, payable at the bank and the exchequer, 493,144 12 5

Total annual amount of the funded debt *, £4,688,177 11 0

The revenue provided by parliament for the above, and the other branches of the national expenditure, in the year 1764 was - - - £7,759,574 15 7

The king of France, conſidering the impoſſibility of complying with an order againſt French or Engliſh veſſels coming within a league of each-other's iſlands, and that, if the Britiſh government were to retaliate by a regulation of equal ſeverity, his own ſubjects muſt ſuffer by it, ſent orders to the Weſt-Indies to allow all veſſels to ſail along the ſhores with freedom, and even to put into the ports in caſe of neceſſity.

The groſs revenue of the poſt-office this year amounted to £281,535; in the year 1664 it was farmed for £21,500; and in 1644 (only twenty years earlier) it was eſtimated ſo low as £5000. Such is the increaſe of correſpondence, ariſing from the increaſe of commerce, and the increaſed facility and diſpatch in the conveyance of letters.

* The annuities of every kind payable at the bank are paid half-yearly, and thoſe payable at the exchequer quarterly.

Authors who have written upon the national debt, by calculating the value of the terminable annuities, have ſwelled the amount of the capital, variouſly, according to the rates they aſſumed in their calculations, which, it is evident, muſt in a great meaſure be arbitrary.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	6918	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	523,128 tuns.
and of Scotland	1244	- - - -	67,345
Total	8162	- - - -	590,473

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India duty of 4½ per cent, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was,

from the cuſtom-houſe in London, -	£2,159,972 19 11
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh, -	9,500 0 0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain,	£2,169,472 19 11

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

18,900 pounds of gold, value - -	£883,102 10 0
and 5 pounds of ſilver, - - -	15 10 0
	£883,118 0 0

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1763 to Chriſtmas 1764 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£35,738 9 2	£98 12 6	£464,878 14 2	£196 2 1
Canaries	3,158 10 7		31,867 10 2	
Denmark, &c.	85,027 9 6	37,427 13 2	141,534 5 5	38,449 18 8
East Country	224,499 8 1		290,331 6 9	
East-India	1,182,844 18 6		1,165,600 12 4	
Flanders	145,772 2 3		546,777 16 10	17,596 18 4
France	95,430 19 11	1,679 11 8	208,765 14 8	307,540 17 1
Germany	606,410 1 2	8,804 8 8	2,379,315 3 9	30,031 15 3
Greenland	7,936 17 0	1,448 10 0		
Holland	371,730 2 2	117,929 4 2	2,040,467 9 9	313,638 11 8
Ireland	777,412 19 8	82,766 0 10	1,634,382 1 8	209,416 17 11
Mann		15 0 0		1,583 12 0
Italy	810,902 9 5	1,445 14 6	754,446 4 2	3,393 7 4
Madeira	5,792 9 3		40,152 12 6	400 0 0
Poland		15,300 16 10		1,837 9 11
Prussia		6,904 17 5		
Portugal	312,974 8 5	11,706 8 6	1,244,198 6 7	1,169 18 9
Ruſſia	920,293 12 3	92,339 9 1	67,952 8 6	272 0 2
Spain	503,489 6 4	6,904 18 0	1,318,345 4 11	7,299 4 4
Straits	32,271 4 11		120,574 9 7	
Sweden	253,280 1 11	30,200 5 11	28,351 4 7	6,834 0 11
Turkey	191,565 16 0		70,008 16 11	
Venice	54,992 10 5		9,952 11 10	
Guernſey, &c.	45,531 6 5	3,690 8 0	54,522 3 7	128 12 3
Belle-iſle	0 4 6			
America in general		349,970 10 8		233,090 10 1
Hudſon's bay	9,272 9 2		3,892 11 2	
Newfoundland	30,354 2 4		72,588 6 3	
St. John's iſland	80 17 2			
Quebec	44,669 9 5		251,385 12 6	

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Nova-Scotia	£32 19 3		15,434 17 0	
New-England	88,157 1 9		459,765 0 11	
New-York	53,697 10 4		515,416 12 1	
Pennsylvania	36,258 18 1		435,191 14 0	
Virginia and Maryland	559,408 15 1		515,192 10 6	
Carolina	341,727 12 7		305,808 1 6	
Georgia	31,325 9 4		18,338 2 11	
Florida	294 3 4		15,004 15 7	
West-Indies in general		117,319 16 3		69,047 13 1
Antigua	307,392 6 8		63,136 10 10	
Barbados	300,213 17 3		181,710 11 3	
Bermuda	165 11 1		10,534 3 7	
Dominica	31,894 6 2		16,415 12 6	
Grenada	206,889 13 6		65,935 3 9	
Guadaloupe	33,551 17 0			
Havanna	5,735 8 0			
Jamaica	1,076,155 1 9		456,528 1 11	
Martinique	3,169 6 8			
Montserrat	82,966 15 0		7,532 8 9	
Nevis	60,652 11 2		7,934 16 5	
St. Christophers	283,842 4 1		98,321 8 2	
St. Vincents			971 15 2	
Tobago			349 8 5	
Tortola	41,549 1 11		2,485 1 0	
New-Providence	4,436 6 7		2,808 6 9	
St. Croix	8,681 12 0		6,625 16 10	
St. Eustathius	917 0 10			
Foreign West-Indies	9,398 11 3	400 4 11		
British and Irish linens exported on bounty to various countries			24,863 9 2	
Prize goods	44,361 5 2		35,782 19 2	
Imp. and exp. of England	10,364,307 12 3		16,202,378 16 9	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	886,352 11 1	886,352 11 1	1,243,927 9 10	1,243,927 9 10
Total, Great Britain,	11,250,660 3 4		17,446,306 6 7	

1765—A great part of the ſouthern coaſt of Barbary was deemed inacceſſible by reaſon of a prodigious ſurf continually breaking upon it. But a commodious harbour with an eaſy acceſs had been diſcovered on that coaſt by Captain George Glaſs, who thereupon applied to government for a grant of an excluſive trade for thirty years to his new-diſcovered harbour, which is ſituated in 28° 4′ north latitude, 11° 36′ longitude weſt from London, and is called by the natives Regeala or Gueder. According to Captain Glaſs the adjacent country produces great abundance of fine wool, which the people partly manufacture, and partly ſell to the Guinea caravans; but they would prefer exchanging it for Britiſh manufactures. He obtained from the natives a charter in Arabic, ſurrendering to Great Britain the port, to which he gave the name of Hillſburgh, with a competent diſtrict of the adjacent land; which, with a plan of the harbour, he tranſmitted (January) to the earl of Hillſburgh. After a tedious delay, perhaps occaſioned by the oppoſition of the merchants

trading to Morocco, who alleged that the emperor of Morocco would reſent ſuch a trade as an encroachment upon his dominions, he at laſt obtained the aſſurance of a grant for twenty-one years, and thereupon ſet ſail with a proper aſſortment of goods for the trade, laid in by himſelf and one or two merchants connected with him. But however flattering the proſpect of this new trade might be, it was entirely fruſtrated by the tragical conſequences of the treachery, or perhaps the groundleſs apprehenſion, of the natives *.

The manufacture of Engliſh cambrics, eſtabliſhed ſome time ago, was now brought to ſuch perfection, that they were eſteemed nothing inferior to the French fabric, and promiſed, with due encouragement, very ſoon to ſuperſede the neceſſity of importing any from France †.

The beginning of the year 1765 is diſtinguiſhed, or at leaſt ought to be diſtinguiſhed, by two inſtances of nice honour and ſtrict integrity, which deſerve to be duely noticed in this work.

A lady, whoſe name ought not to have been ſuppreſſed, had a nephew, a grocer, who had failed about the year 1745, and paid his creditors 10*s* in the pound. By her will ſhe bequeathed a ſum of money to pay the balance due to his creditors.

Mr. Stephen Theodore Janſſen, formerly lord mayor of London, and one of the repreſentatives in parliament for the city, had the misfortune to fail in buſineſs the year after his mayoralty. His friends immediately ſettled on him an annuity of £600 for life, of which he paid annually £480 among his creditors, though acquitted of his former debts, as far as a certificate ſigned by the creditors could acquit him. The citizens of London, as a mark of their approbation of ſuch honourable conduct, did themſelves honour in beſtowing upon him, without any previous canvaſs, the lucrative and confidential office of city chamberlain: and Mr. Janſſen's ſubſequent conduct did honour to their choice. A few days after his election his brother Sir Abraham Janſſen died and

* One of his men was murdered, and the king of the place attempted to poiſon the whole crew: whereupon Captain Glaſs, being in want of neceſſaries, which he expected to get from the ſhore, or, according to other accounts, with a view of ſelling ſome goods he found not ſaleable there, went over in his long-boat to one of the Canaries, where the Spaniſh governor, pretending that he was a ſpy, kept him in priſon, till he found means, by writing with charcoal upon a biſcuit, to repreſent his caſe to the captain of a Britiſh ſhip of war, who, after being ſent to priſon himſelf, procured his liberty. In the meantime the natives of Gueder took advantage of the weakened ſtate of the ſhip's company, made an attack upon her, and were bravely repulſed by the mate, who at laſt deſpairing of his commander's return, failed for England with a quantity of gold, orchill, wax, woods, feathers, and ſkins.

Captain Glaſs, having been joined at Canary by his wife and daughter, embarked onboard a veſſel bound for London, and had actually got ſight of the land of England, when four ruffians of the crew, in purſuance of a ſcheme they had laid before they ſailed, murdered their own commander, Captain Glaſs, his wife, daughter, and ſervant, with ſome of the ſeamen not concerned in their plot, in order to poſſeſs a large ſum of money onboard the ſhip.

Such was the melancholy end of this enterpriſing and unfortunate gentleman; and with him, I believe, his projected trade alſo periſhed.

† 300 pieces were ſold at Garraway's coffee-houſe at 13*s*/6 a yard on an average in January 1765.

left him an annuity of £500 for life, which he immediately sold, and divided the money among his creditors. He also appropriated a considerable part of the emoluments of his office to the discharge of his debts, till the full payment of the last penny due to every one of his creditors was completely and honourably effected *. So noble an example is worthy of being held up to all traders, who by the vicissitudes of misfortune and prosperity may be placed in similar circumstances. And he, who has it in his power to follow such an example, and does it not, may wallow in wealth and luxury, he may be fed with the insincere applause of those who pretend that merit consists in opulence; but he must never expect to enjoy the heart-felt satisfaction and peace of mind, which this HONEST MAN deservedly enjoyed.

When toiling through the thorny mazes of human crimes and follies in search of materials for commercial history, it is pleasing to meet with some blossoms of human virtues, and to endeavour to preserve them for the delight, and for the imitation, of future ages.

January 26th—The society of artists of Great Britain were incorporated, and invested with the usual privileges of corporate bodies, by a royal charter, which directs, that the presiding officers of the society shall be painters, sculptors, architects, or engravers, by profession.

Soon after this it was determined in the court of common pleas, that the publishers of engravings of portraits were entitled to the benefit of the act for securing the property of engravings.

January 28th—Salted provisions were allowed to be imported from Ireland for one year, on paying duties equivalent to the salt duties of this kingdom. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 1.]

February 9th—The British subjects in the territories ceded to France and Spain at the peace, not having been able to accomplish the removal of their property within the time limited by the act of parliament, [3 *Geo. III, c.* 17] they obtained a further indulgence till the 1st of May 1765 of importing their effects, on paying the same duties as for British produce. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 3.]

Several Mediterranean passes having during the war fallen into the hands of nations in hostility with the piratical states of Barbary, all the passes then in use were called in by proclamation, in order to be replaced by others of a new form, that no occasion might be given of any misunderstanding with those states.

The governors of the British forts on the coast of Africa had long been complaining, in their letters to their constituents, of encroachments upon their limits by the French, particularly by their intended fort at Albreda. The state of that country therefor became an object of attention to the lords of trade. On examining the information received from

* By the death of his brother Sir Henry in February 1766 the title of baronet devolved upon him.

Africa, they found, that the forts were generally in a defenceleſs condition, and the garriſons unacquainted with military diſcipline, and too weak to afford any proſpect of defence, even againſt the natives; that places, repreſented as of great importance for improving our commerce, and where the natives had even requeſted us to make ſettlements, were totally neglected; and that the civil government was as defective as the military, there being at Fort-Louis a town conſiſting of about 4000 people, totally deſtitute of government; though, in the time of the French dominion at Senegal, that town, together with Podore on the ſame river, was ſubject to the command of the French governor.

The nature of the commerce at Senegal, which is chiefly for gum, differing greatly from that on the other parts of the coaſt, and the inhabitants being alſo very different, and ſeveral ſettlements being made far up the river, it was conceived to be impoſſible for the committee of African merchants, a fluctuating body annually elected, to govern that country with propriety. It was therefor determined to erect that tract of the coaſt lying between Cape Blanco and Cape Rouge, and including the rivers Senegal and Gambia, into a royal government, to be called the province of Senegambia, with a civil conſtitution, and a military eſtabliſhment for the government and ſecurity of the ſettlement. The expenſe of the civil and military eſtabliſhments of the intended province, including an armed ſloop and two flat-bottomed gun-boats for defending the entry of the river, was ſtated at £12,000 for the firſt year, and £10,000 a year afterwards.

By the act of parliament for veſting this province in the king, the trade of that coaſt was declared to be open to all Britiſh ſubjects, reſerving, however, a power of granting to George Glaſs an excluſive trade for twenty-one years to his newly-diſcovered port of Regeala or Gueder *.

March 22d—The liberty of importing cattle from Ireland, free of duty was prolonged for ſeven years. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 10.]

It was enacted, 'that from and after the firſt day of November 1765 'there ſhall be raiſed, levied, collected, and paid unto his Majeſty, his 'heirs and ſucceſſors, throughout the colonies and plantations in Ame-'rica, which now are, or hereafter may be, under the dominion of his 'Majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors,' ſtamp duties upon all kinds of legal or commercial writings or contracts, pamphlets, newſpapers, advertiſements, almanacks, cards, dice, &c. Theſe duties were to be under the management of the commiſſioners of the ſtamps in Great Britain, who were to appoint officers to attend in every court through all the colonies to watch over the collection of the ſtamp duties †. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 12.]

* His port was far north of the northernmoſt limit of Senegambia. The fate of Glaſs's unfortunate enterpriſe has been already noticed.

† A ſcheme for levying a tax in the Britiſh colonies in America having been propoſed to Sir Robert Walpole during the Spaniſh war, which

The commiſſioners for the diſcovery of the longitude having already paid to the authors of various inventions £6000, the whole ſum allotted for making experiments, they were further empowered ſtill to receive propoſals, and, on ſeeing a probability of ſucceſs, ſtill to allow a ſum not exceeding £2000 to each author of an approved plan for aſcertaining the longitude. It was now that payment was ordered to Mr. Harriſon of the balance of the £20,000 promiſed by former acts of parliament, his time-keeper having on the ſecond trial run the longitude to Barbados within ten minutes, or one ſixth of a degree *, on condition of diſcovering the art of conſtructing his time-keeper within ſix months of the date of paſſing this act, and delivering three time-keepers made by him, and proved by ſufficient trials to be capable of aſcertaining the longitude with the required degree of exactneſs.

A reward of £3000 was allowed to the widow of Profeſſor Mayer of Gottingen for a ſet of lunar tables conſtructed by him upon Sir Iſaac Newton's principles, which were found very uſeful in determining the longitude; and alſo a reward of £300 to Profeſſor Euler of Berlin for aſſiſting Mayer in his work. And £5000 is offered to any one, who ſhall make any improvement in theſe lunar tables, or ſhall make any diſcovery or improvement uſeful in navigation. [5 *Geo. III, cc.* 11, 20.] Thus does Great Britain invite and animate the learned and ingenious of all nations to exert their talents in the ſervice of ſcience and commerce. Indeed, it is probable, that this great and important deſideratum in navigation is, by the time-keeper, the marine chair, the improved lunar tables, and Doctor Maſkelyne's improvements in the allowances for parallax and refraction, now brought as near to perfection as it is poſſible to bring it.

April 19[th].—The encouragement held out to the cultivation of madder, by the act 31 *Geo. II, c.* 12, was prolonged for fourteen years, to be computed from 1ſt Auguſt 1772.

May 10[th].—The ſociety of the free Britiſh fiſhery, incorporated by act of parliament [23 *Geo. II, c.* 24] had, by virtue of ſeveral acts, enjoyed an annuity of three per cent, payable by the receiver-general of the cuſtoms on all money actually employed in the fiſhery, and a bounty of 30*ſ*, afterwards raiſed to 50*ſ*, per tun, on all veſſels from twenty to eighty tuns

began in the year 1739, he ſmiled, and ſaid, 'I 'will leave that to ſome of my ſucceſſors, who 'may have more courage than I have, and be leſs 'a friend to commerce than I am. It has been a 'maxim with me, during my adminiſtration, to 'encourage the trade of the American colonies in 'the utmoſt latitude, and even to paſs over ſome 'irregularities in their trade with Europe: for by 'encouraging them to an extenſive growing fo- 'reign commerce, if they gain £500,000, I am 'convinced, that in two years afterwards full '£250,000 of their gains will be brought into his 'Majeſty's exchequer by means of the labour and 'produce of this kingdom, as immenſe quantities 'of every kind of our manufactures go thither; 'and as they increaſe in their foreign trade, more 'of our produce will be wanted. This is taxing 'them more agreeably both to their own conſtitu- 'tion and to ours.'

* The greateſt exactneſs required by the act of parliament to entitle the inventor to the higheſt reward was only half a degree.

burthen employed by them. But, as theſe advantages were to ceaſe on the 22d of October 1767, and the charter would not expire till the 22d of October 1771, the annuity and tunnage bounty were prolonged for the remaining four years of the charter. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 22.]

The rates of poſtage were raiſed. Ships bringing letters were obliged to deliver them at the poſt-office. The poſtmaſter-general was empowered to eſtabliſh a penny poſt-office in any town in the Britiſh dominions. Letters brought by the general poſt for people living beyond the delivery of the general poſt-office, and in that of the penny-poſt, were directed to be delivered by the penny-poſt with an additional charge of one penny for each letter, whether ſingle or double. No packets weighing above four ounces, except general poſt letters, were henceforth to be carried by the penny-poſt. Embezzlement of letters, taking notes or bills out of them, and robbing the mail, were made felony. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

The feudal ſovereignty of the iſland of Mann had been granted by Henry IV to Sir John Stanley, anceſtor of the earls of Derby, and was now poſſeſſed by the duke and ducheſs of Athol as heirs of the earls of Derby. But many inconveniencies being found to proceed from the iſland being independent of the Britiſh government, it was now given up to the crown for a valuable conſideration paid to the duke and ducheſs.

By an abſtract of the whole revenue drawn by the duke of Athol for ten years, from 1754 to 1763 incluſive, it appears to have been £85,085 : 6 : 6½ iſland currency, which, being to ſterling money as ſeven to ſix, makes £72,930 : 5 : 7 ſterling, the annual average of which is £7293 : 0 : 6½ ſterling, whereof above £6000 were cuſtoms paid to the duke as ſovereign. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

The journeymen ſilk-weavers, and thoſe of the other trades connected with that branch in London, who were ſuffering by the faſhion of wearing French ſilks, aſſembled in vaſt numbers on the day appointed for the meeting of parliament (10th January), and marched with drums and colours by ſeveral routes to the palace and parliament-houſe, in order to preſent petitions praying for relief by a total prohibition of foreign-wrought ſilks; and they alſo perſonally applied to ſeveral members in their way to the houſe, in the humbleſt terms imploring them to have pity on the wretched ſituation of themſelves and their families. The ſight of ſuch a multitude of people, thrown idle for want of employment, and probably ready for the commiſſion of deſperate deeds, together with a report that the weavers of the inland towns were preparing to ſet out for London, ſpread a dreadful alarm, eſpecially among thoſe who conceived themſelves obnoxious to their reſentment. They however did no other miſchief than breaking the windows of ſome houſes, where they ſuppoſed French ſilks were ſold, and were appeaſed

by a contribution for their immediate relief, and an engagement entered into by the principal silk-mercers to countermand all their orders for foreign silks.

That the manufacture might not suffer for want of materials, the parliament took off the old duties paid upon the importation of raw silk, and laid a new duty of 1/3 per pound of 24 ounces on raw silk, and 1/9 per same pound on thrown silk, to be paid on importation, without any drawback on exportation, except to Ireland, in favour of which a drawback of 1/ on raw silk, and 6d on thrown silk, per pound of 24 ounces, was allowed, with an express prohibition, however, of re-exporting the raw silk from Ireland on any account whatever. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

In order to provide a sufficient supply for the African trade, the East-India company were empowered to import from any part of Europe, in British vessels, such quantities of coarse printed calicoes, cowries, and arangoes, as may be necessary, when their own stores of those goods are found insufficient, on obtaining a licence from the treasury, and on payment of the usual duties. But, should they neglect to procure a sufficient supply, or ask an unreasonable price, the lords of treasury were empowered to grant licences to other persons. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 30.]

An additional duty of 4/ per chaldron was laid on all coals shipped for any foreign dominion; and a duty of five per cent *ad valorem* on silks, calicoes, and other manufactures, of Persia, China, or India, shipped to any foreign country, except Africa. At the same time additional duties were laid upon policies of insurance. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 35.]

May 25th—An act was passed to confine the importation of gum senega to Great Britain, and laying a duty of 6d per hundred-weight on the importation, and 30/ per hundred-weight on the exportation, of it. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

The goodness of roads is of the greatest consequence to the internal trade of a country, and is an object well deserving the attention of every wise legislature. In the preceding reign the narrow wheels, which plowed up the roads, were discouraged by exempting carts and waggons, having wheels of nine inches in breadth, from part of the toll duties paid by those with narrow wheels. A considerable improvement was now made upon that regulation, by directing that those who, by forming their axles of different lengths, should make their fore and hind wheels together roll upon the ground in a line of at least sixteen inches in breadth, should pay only half the toll dues payable by others. In order, also, to prevent the roads from being destroyed by enormous weight, the commissioners of the roads were empowered to erect weighing engines, and to exact 20/ per hundred-weight from all waggons weighing above six tuns, and all carts above three tuns. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 38.]

The iſland of Mann, not having been hitherto ſubject to the Britiſh revenue laws, had been a magazine for the reception of India and other foreign goods of all kinds, which were clandeſtinely imported from thence into Great Britain and Ireland. But, in conſequence of the purchaſe of the ſovereignty, it was now ſubjected to the controul of the Britiſh legiſlature; which enacted, that after the 1ſt of June 1765 the revenue officers ſhould ſearch all veſſels arriving in that iſland, and ſeize all goods illegally imported, in the ſame manner as in Great Britain; that no foreign ſpirits ſhould be carried thither but from this kingdom; and that none ſhould be brought into this kingdom from thence. Several regulations for the coaſting trade, &c. were alſo enacted. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 39.]

By an act, containing a multitude of regulations for rendering the execution of the revenue laws more effectual, and the revenue more productive, the linens manufactured in Mann were entitled to the ſame bounty on being ſhipped from Great Britain, that Britiſh and Iriſh linens are entitled to: and the people of Mann were allowed to import into Great Britain the cattle and manufactures of the iſland, except woollen manufactures, beer, and ale, without paying any duties on importation.

The ſmugglers being deprived of their principal repoſitory by the iſland of Mann being ſubjected to the revenue laws, it became neceſſary to cut off another means of defrauding the revenue and injuring the fair trader, which was practiſed by ſhipping bounty goods for the iſlands of Faroe (or rather Foeroe), ſubject to Denmark, and lying in the Northern ocean between Shetland and Iceland, where a great deal of ſmuggling buſineſs has been carried on. Such goods having been often entered for thoſe iſlands with an intent to obtain the bounty or drawback, and afterwards relanded in ſome part of Great Britain, it was now enacted, that no bounty or drawback ſhould be allowed upon any goods to be ſent thither; and that any perſon entering goods for bounty or drawback to be carried to other foreign countries, and notwithſtanding landing them in Faroe, ſhould forfeit the bounty, three times the value of the goods, and alſo the veſſel which carried them. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 43.]

For ſecuring and encouraging the trade of the American provinces, large bounties were allowed on the importation of deals, planks, and timber, the growth of thoſe provinces. The liberty of exporting rice to thoſe parts of America ſouth of Georgia, formerly granted to that province and South Carolina, was extended to North Carolina. Rice imported into Plymouth, Exeter, Poole, Southampton, Chicheſter, Sandwich, and Glaſgow, and intended to be immediately exported, was exempted from paying any other duty than half the old ſubſidy. The

American colonies were allowed to ſhip their iron * for Ireland, and their lumber for Ireland, Madeira, the Azores, and any part of Europe to the ſouthward of Cape Finiſterre, as well as to Great Britain. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 45.]

Foreign-manufactured ſilk ſtockings, ſilk mitts, and ſilk gloves, were prohibited to be imported after the 24th of June 1765; and the prohibition of the importation of ribands, laces, and girdles of ſilk, enacted by Henry VII, was now enforced by a heavier penalty. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 48.]

The banks in Scotland, in order to guard againſt the diſtreſs of a run upon them, uſed to inſert in their notes, what was called an *optional clauſe*, whereby they reſerved a power of poſtponing payment for ſix months, and paying intereſt from the day of the demand. But the option being complained of, as perverting ſuch paper from being a ſubſtitute for current money †, it was enacted, that, after the 15th of May 1766 all bank notes ſhould be made payable on demand, except poſt-bills, which, as before, may be made payable ſeven days after ſight. Another, and a much greater, abuſe had alſo crept in, which was, that notes, called bank notes, for ten ſhillings, five ſhillings, &c. were iſſued by obſcure perſons in many villages in Scotland, which almoſt entirely baniſhed ſilver out of the circulation. To put a ſtop to this evil, all notes under twenty ſhillings were prohibited to be current after the 1ſt of June 1765. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 49.]

All the laws, hitherto made for regulating the ſtreets of London, being found defective, a new act was paſſed, giving larger powers to the commiſſioners, and extending them to the Surry ſide of Weſtminſter bridge. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 50.]

The ſeveral laws for regulating the manufacture of woollen cloths in the weſt riding of York-ſhire were repeated; and the juſtices of that riding (not being themſelves concerned in the woollen trade) were directed to appoint men of good character, bred to the woollen manufacture, to inſpect, meaſure, and ſeal, all cloths at the fulling mills, and to keep a proper regiſter of the cloths and the makers: and the clothiers were moreover directed to put their names and reſidence in the end of every cloth, woven or ſewed in plain legible letters. [5 *Geo. III, c.* 51.]

June 1ſt.—In conſequence of the purchaſe of the ſovereignty of Mann, formal poſſeſſion was taken for the king, by hoiſting the Britiſh colours at

* When the encouragement of the American iron was under conſideration, the manufacturers of London, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, &c. gave evidence, that it was in all reſpects equal to the Swediſh iron for every purpoſe.

† In the year 1762, 1763, 1764, when the abuſe of the optional clauſe was at the greateſt height, the exchange between London and Dumfries was ſometimes four per cent againſt the later, though it is not thirty miles from Carliſle, where the exchange with London was at par. In Carliſle bills were paid in gold and ſilver, but in Dumfries in notes of the Scottiſh banks, which the uncertainty of getting them *immediately* changed for gold or ſilver, thus degraded four per cent under their nominal value. [*Smith's Wealth of nations, V.* i, *p.* 492, *ed.* 1793.]

Caſtletown, the capital of the iſland: and the new arrangements for the government, and collection of the revenue, as alſo the eſtabliſhment of a cuſtom-houſe, and exciſe-office, took place. The traders in the iſland were allowed ſix months to diſpoſe of their ſtock, at the expiration of which time they became ſubject to the ſame taxes and reſtrictions as the people of England. But moſt of the ſtrangers who were ſettled on the iſland declined availing themſelves of the ſix months indulgence, and removed from it immediately after the change of government.

So eager were the French in puſhing forward the population and improvement of their colonies, that all people, declaring themſelves willing to go to them, were furniſhed at the public expenſe with carriages to convey them to St. Jean de Luz, where they were decently maintained till a veſſel was ready to carry them to the place of their deſtination.

July 19th—The proprietors of the million bank, whoſe dividends had been reduced in the year 1728, from *five* to *four* per cent, agreed at a general court to reſtore them to *five* per cent.

A ſhip of war of 74 guns was built at Milford haven; which, if I miſtake not, is the firſt inſtance of any ſhip for the navy being built on the weſt ſide of Britain.

The pearl fiſhery in Scotland, ſo conſiderable in antient times, but of late almoſt wholely neglected, was this ſummer revived with conſiderable advantage in the river Spey.

By a trial at Gildhall upon an inſurance cauſe, it was determined, that the owner of a veſſel, which is not ſea-worthy, not only loſes the benefit of the inſurance, but is alſo liable to the ſhippers upon freight, for the loſſes ariſing from the inſufficiency of his veſſel. This precedent ought to be generally known, as it may operate, as well as a ſurveyor, to make owners particularly attentive to the condition of the veſſels on-board which they propoſe to receive other people's property.

Mr. Witchell's marine table for facilitating the calculation of the longitude by the lunar method, was approved of by the board of longitude, who advanced him £1000 to enable him to proceed in his work. They alſo appointed him and Meſſieurs Lyons, Wales, Mapſon, and Dunithorne, to compute an Ephemeris, to be publiſhed for promoting the ſciences of aſtronomy and navigation (July).

About this time Mr. Dingwall, a Scottiſh clergyman and mathematician, endeavoured to make an improvement in another very important branch of nautical ſcience, by calculating aſtronomical tables for diſcovering the variation of the compaſs. But the principles, which regulate this wonderful deviation of the magnetic needle from the true meridian, ſtill continue to elude the reſearches of human ſcience.

Among the efforts of the king of Pruſſia to introduce manufactures and commerce in his dominions, were the erection of a bank; and of an office for inſurance with a capital of 1,000,000 crowns in 4000 ſhares

of 250 each, and an exclusive privilege for thirty years; also a company for trading to Turkey with a capital of 1,000,000 rix-dollars; and an East-India company at Embden with a subscribed capital of 125,000 crowns *, of which the subscribers were to pay in two thirds; and the partners of the ruined company, which was abolished in the year 1763, were entitled to a preference in the subscription.

The city of Hamburgh also this year established an office for insurance, with a capital subscription of 500 shares of 1000 dollars each.

Nine ships from the Spanish American dominions arrived at Cadiz in the month of August, whose cargoes were valued at eleven millions of dollars, whereof the registered gold and silver were almost nine millions: and it is probable, that the unregistered, or smuggled, bullion amounted to two or three millions more. It is doubtful, if Great Britain was not as much interested in the arrival of those rich ships as Spain.

Some grievous discontents among the coal-workers in the neighbourhood of Newcastle and Sunderland broke out in dreadful excesses, which continued from the middle of August till the end of September. They set fire to the coals which were ready for shipping, and even to the coal mines under ground, broke up the coal ways, and destroyed all the machinery; in consequence of which about 600 ships, and 100,000 men, in Newcastle, Sunderland, and London, were thrown idle, all business connected with the coal trade was at a stand, and coals rose to an enormous price in London. While all the adjacent country was convulsed with violence and outrage, the coal works at Hartley, belonging to Mr. Delavall, whom the coal-workers distinguished for his humane treatment of his workmen, were carried on in perfect tranquillity: an important lesson to all, who have occasion for the services of a great number of their fellow-creatures.

The emperor of Morocco informed General Irwin, the governor of Gibraltar, that he was desirous of moving the chief trade of his dominions to his port of Mogadore †, where all strangers, and particularly the English, might rely on enjoying every encouragement and protection, with a diminution of the duties on imports and exports, and a total remission of the anchorage dues annually paid at his other ports, in powder, ball, or money. The British merchants, however, were very far from approving of the change made by the emperor, which they considered as a very gross oppression; and they asserted that Mogadore would be a very inconvenient harbour for their commerce ‡.

* A company, whose whole capital (if indeed there is no mistake in the sum) was far short of the outfit of one East-India ship, could expect no very great success in attempting an East-India trade.

Raynal has not even condescended to mention this new establishment, when giving an account of the unfortunate East-India trade of Prussia. [*Hist. philos. et polit. V.* iii, *p.* 54, *ed.* 1782.]

† Mogadore is apparently the small island called Kernè by Hanno, and the most antient commercial establishment on the west side of Africa.

‡ The same emperor, when prince of Saffy, about the year 1755 maltreated two British mercantile houses, and robbed them of about £17,000. These enormities almost put an end to the residence of British merchants, who had formerly been pretty numerous in the dominions of Morocco.

3

The firſt of November was the day appointed by parliament for the commencement of the operation of the ſtamp act in America; and from that day no buſineſs of conſequence could be legally tranſacted without ſtamped paper. But of all the ſtamped paper, ſent out by government to the various provinces of America, not one ſheet was to be found from New-England to South Carolina, the whole being burnt by the incenſed populace, except one ſmall parcel, which had been delivered by the governor of New-York into the hands of the magiſtrates of the city, who received it on the expreſs condition, that it ſhould not be uſed. On that day the warehouſes were ſhut up; the veſſels in the harbours exhibited their colours hoiſted halfway up in token of mourning: there was no appearance of buſineſs on the wharfs, nor on the rivers; the courts of juſtice were ſhut up; buſineſs of every kind was at a ſtand; and an univerſal ſpirit of diſcontent pervaded all ranks and deſcriptions of people throughout the whole country.

In the meantime a new and general agreement was entered into by the merchants of the colonies, to import no more goods from Great Britain, to countermand their orders for whatever goods ſhould not be ſhipped before the 1ſt of January 1766, and not to receive on commiſſion any goods conſigned from Great Britain after that day. As their agreement did not affect the trade with Ireland, ſuch articles as they could not do without were imported from that country, in return for flax-ſeed and hemp-ſeed; ſo that the commerce of Ireland reaped ſome advantage from the diſagreement of the colonies with the mother country. In order, however, to be as much as poſſible independent of any ſupplies from Europe, the ſpirit of manufacturing was revived with great ardour; and it was patronized and directed by a ſociety eſtabliſhed at New-York, upon the model of the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, in London. Linens, cloths, made not only from the wool of ſheep, but alſo from beaver's wool, ſpades, hoes, ſcythes, and other neceſſary articles of iron ware, malt ſpirits, paper hangings, &c. were manufactured by inhabitants of America, or by people whom liberal encouragement had drawn from Great Britain, and other parts of Europe, to ſettle in America; and they were bought up with the greateſt avidity, every one being deſirous of appearing in American dreſs, in preference to Britiſh manufactures. The zeal for ſupporting the native woollen manufactory, even produced a reſolution againſt eating lamb, and an agreement not to buy meat from any butcher, who ſhould kill lambs.

Not ſatisfied with abſtaining from importation, they alſo propoſed to prohibit the exportation of tobacco to Great Britain; a meaſure which, if it had been carried into execution, muſt very ſenſibly have affected the commerce, the navigation, and the revenue, of the mother country.

Such were the principal effects, as far as they concerned commerce,

of the ſtamp act in the colonies of New-England, New-York, New-Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the two Carolinas. Thoſe at the northern and ſouthern extremities of the continent ſubmitted to the authority of the Britiſh legiſlature, as did alſo the Britiſh iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, excepting St. Chriſtophers and Nevis, the inhabitants of which were induced by ſome New-Englanders in their harbours to burn the ſtamped paper, and commit outrages on ſome of the ſervants of government *.

In the courſe of this ſummer the French ſhowed a diſpoſition rather hoſtile to our trade in the Weſt-Indies. A fleet of about forty ſail from Martinique went upon the coaſt of Honduras to cut logwood, in prejudice of the Britiſh logwood-cutters, to whom that privilege was ſecured by the 17th article of the treaty of peace in 1763. Orders were alſo ſent from France to ſeize every Britiſh veſſel, which did not depart from Cap François in forty-eight hours, in conſequence of which ſome veſſels from New-York were actually ſeized, and the people impriſoned. As the reſort of the Britiſh-American veſſels to that port was by no means unprofitable to the French, the conduct of the French court is perhaps to be accounted for from a Britiſh ſhip of war having taken formal poſſeſſion of Turk's iſlands, which they, after having ſeized, and then evacuated them in the preceding year, wiſhed to be conſidered as neutral.

The African territory, including the rivers Senegal and Gambia, and extending from Cape Blanco to Cape Rouge, being by act of parliament [5 *Geo. III, c.* 44] reſumed from the African merchants, and veſted in the crown, the king erected it into a province, to be called Senegambia, and appointed General O'Hara governor of it, (December 28th), to be aſſiſted by a council in matters of government; the commercial department being put under the direction of a ſuperintendent of trade, ſubordinate to the governor and council.

Since Newfoundland was firſt reſorted to as a fiſhing ſtation, it had generally been the deſire of government, that the fiſhery ſhould be carried on by ſhips going from Great Britain every ſeaſon, rather than by ſtationary fiſhermen upon the iſland. This plan had not, however, been uniformly adhered to; and ſo, by acting alternately upon different, or rather oppoſite, principles, the nation loſt the benefits, which would have followed from a ſteady perſeverance in either of the plans. A claim of right was ſet up to all parts of the beach, convenient for curing the fiſh, by the inhabitants and the owners of bye boats, to the utter excluſion of the fiſhermen of the ſhips from Great Britain, and alſo of thoſe from France, entitled, under the treaties of Utrecht and Paris, to a concurrent fiſhery between Bonaviſta and Point-Riche. There being no proper

* Many events and circumſtances of the American diſturbances, which were related by the writers of the time, are omitted in this work, as belonging to general, rather than to commercial, hiſtory.

eſtabliſhment on the iſland for the execution of the laws of trade, ſmuggling was carried on with impunity, eſpecially with the French ſettled at Miquelon and St. Pierre, during the abſence of the Britiſh ſhips of war. And there was even reaſon to apprehend, that many veſſels, reſorting to Newfoundland as Britiſh, were partly owned by Spaniards and other foreigners.

Such being now the ſtate of the iſland and of the fiſhery, and it being undeniable, that the fiſhermen ſettled on the iſland can go earlier to, and remain later upon, the fiſhing grounds, than the ſhips can do, and that they have alſo many advantages in repairing their veſſels, ſtages, &c. it was evident, that, notwithſtanding the diſadvantages proceeding from their diſorderly way of life, the quantity of fiſh, cured and carried to market, was now as great as in the moſt flouriſhing times of this fiſhery, while the exports to the iſland were five times as many as at that period, beſides that they were ſuppoſed to take from the continental colonies twice as much as they do from home, the profits of which ultimately center in this country.

It being therefor impracticable, without very great violence, if not even injuſtice, to reſtore the ſyſtem of the fiſhery preſcribed by the act of the 10th and 11th of King William, and to aboliſh the ſedentary fiſhery, the lords of trade adviſed that ſettlements and property ſhould be ratified by laws in all parts of the iſland, excepting that portion of the coaſt, where a concurrent fiſhery by French, as well as Britiſh, ſubjects was ſtipulated by the treaties of Utrecht and Paris, and where a ſhip fiſhery only will be moſt for the advantage of all concerned.

Commodore Palliſer, governor of Newfoundland, at the beginning of the ſeaſon, publiſhed regulations for the fiſhery on the coaſt of Labrador, and the iſlands of Anticoſti and the Madelaines, regulations for the ſalmon fiſhery in Newfoundland, and orders for eſtabliſhing a friendly intercourſe with the Eſquimeaux Indians of Labrador.

At the end of the ſeaſon he made up a ſtatement of the fiſhery and the inhabitants of his government, by which it appears that there had arrived this year,

177 Britiſh fiſhing ſhips, of the total burthen of 17,268 tuns, and carrying 2,521 men, and 5,397 paſſengers, who cured 136,840 quintals of cod, valued at from 10/ to 17/ per quintal, and made 585¼ tuns of train oil, valued at from £15 to £18 per tun;

116 Britiſh ſack (or trading) ſhips, burthen 14,353 tuns, carrying 1252 men, who do not fiſh, but bring ſalt, or only ballaſt, and purchaſe their fiſh;

104 Britiſh-American veſſels, burthen 6,927 tuns, carrying 666 men.

There were alſo made by the bye-boat men 85,096 quintals of cod, and 481¾ tuns of train oil; and by the inhabitants 310,576 quintals of cod, and 1317¾ tuns of oil.

There were carried to foreign markets,
493,654 quintals of cod,
1172 tierces of ſalmon, worth 40ſ to 45ſ each,
Seal-oil made laſt year, and whale-bone obtained from the Indians, to the amount of - - - - £5109
And furs taken by the inhabitants, to the value of - - 980

The fiſhery on the coaſt of Labrador employed 117 ſloops and ſchooners from the provinces of Quebec and New-England, carrying 1563 * men, who between the 14th of May and the 10th of July killed 104 whales, each being of the average value of £478, and yielding on an average 140 barrels of oil, and 2000 pounds of bone. The winter ſeal fiſhery on the ſame coaſt employed 107 men, who made 500 tuns of oil, beſides procuring furs, a conſiderable quantity of which they got from the Eſquimeaux (or rather Caralits, that being the indigenous name). The value of the ſeal, cod, ſalmon, and furs, obtained upon that part of the coaſt is eſtimated at £100,000, made entirely by the Britiſh-Americans, and the greateſt part of it ſold to the French.

In the French fiſhery between Bonaviſta and Point-Riche there were employed 117 ſhips of 18,495 tuns, carrying 7862 men, who made 292,790 quintals of cod, and 2929 hogſheads of oil.

The reſt of the French ſhipping and fiſhery was eſtimated as follows.

	Ships.	*Tuns.*	*Men.*	*Qu. Cod.*	*Hhds. Oil.*
On the banks,	130	16,000	3,900 made	130,000	2,600
At St. Pierre	20	2,600	1,200	24,000	480
French frigates,	2	——	400	——	——
Belonging to St Pierre and Miquelon, and employed on the banks and in the Gulf of St. Laurence,	50	2,500	750	30,000	600
Boats belonging to thoſe iſlands,	120	——	600	12,000	240
Trading veſſels from the French Weſt-Indies,	20	1,200	240	——	——

Commodore Palliſer reckoned the number of the inhabitants ſettled upon Newfoundland to be 15,484, moſt of whom were Roman Catholics, and many of them deſerters from the ſhips, who, not being able to follow any employment during the ſeven months in which there is no fiſhery, and being under no controul of civil government, uſed to ſpend that time in idleneſs, and ſubſiſt chiefly by robbery, the whole of the land cultivated by them being only 1,262 acres. He was clearly of opi-

* A ſubſequent report by Commodore Palliſer ſtates the number of men to be 1452.

nion, that the fiſhery ought to be carried on only by ſhips from Great Britain, and not at all by the reſident fiſhermen *.

The Britiſh conſul and merchants at Liſbon complained that their commerce laboured under many obſtructions and oppreſſions. The woollen trade had fallen off to about a half of what it was ten years before, partly owing to new duties, and partly to the competition of the French and Dutch woollen goods. The importation of fine hats was ſunk to about a tenth part of the number in former years, occaſioned partly by an importation of fine hats from France, and partly by manufactures lately ſet up in Portugal. About 60,000 quintals of dried cod-fiſh were now imported in about thirty veſſels from Newfoundland; but formerly the annual importation uſed to be 80,000 quintals. The decreaſe may be aſcribed partly to the advanced price of fiſh at Newfoundland and New-England, partly to additional duties impoſed at Liſbon, and partly to the arts of the Liſbon company of fiſhmongers. The ſilk trade from England was growing conſiderable, when ſome manufactures of ſilk ſtarting up in Portugal, and large importations from Spain and Italy, reduced it greatly. The trade in ſilk ſtockings was at this time pretty equally divided between England and France.

Portugal being obliged to import half the corn conſumed in it, is ſupplied from Great Britain and the Britiſh-American colonies, the Mediterranean, Holland, Dantzik, Spain, and France; but the importers of corn complained loudly of a law prohibiting them from carrying it to another port, if the market ſhould happen to be glutted, when they arrive in a Portugueſe harbour. The Britiſh-American colonies had driven a very profitable trade with Portugal, till the late parliamentary reſtrictions took place. The importation of butter, beef, and pork, from Ireland was now as great as ever, becauſe they could be got from no other country. The uſe of Britiſh printed linens, formerly pretty general, was now almoſt aboliſhed by ſome arbitrary proceedings of the cuſtom-houſe officers.

About twenty years before this time there uſed to arrive in Liſbon ſix or ſeven hundred Engliſh veſſels annually, they being then in a great meaſure the carriers of the trade of Liſbon in the Mediterranean. But the Dutch, Daniſh, and Swediſh, veſſels, being generally larger than the Engliſh, and the port dues, of late monſtrouſly advanced, being ſo contrived as to fall heavieſt on the ſmalleſt veſſels, the Engliſh carrying trade was ſo much diſcouraged by theſe circumſtances, and other oppreſſive meaſures, that ſcarcely four hundred Engliſh veſſels in a year now entered the port.

* It is worthy of remark, however, that he has acknowleged, that the reſident fiſhermen could manage the fiſhery to better advantage; and thence it appears, that the want of a permanent government upon the iſland was the chief, if not the only, cauſe of the enormities he complained of.

The Britiſh trade in Portugal was moreover greatly injured by means of the excluſive companies of Maranham and Pernambucco, who oppreſſed the coloniſts in Braſil, and ruined the trade by their monopolizing avarice; alſo by the arbitrary uſage of the board of trade (*'Junta de commercio'*) in giving protection to fraudulent bankrupts, contrary (as is believed) to the 13th article of the treaty of 1654, which provides againſt any protections from the claims of lawful creditors; alſo by the uncertainty of property, proceeding from the arbitrary conduct of the inquiſition and the tribunal of inconfidentia, who frequently, on ſuſpicion, ſeize the perſons and properties of Portugueze merchants, and deprive their creditors of the ſums juſtly due to them by the merchants ſo impriſoned. Beſides all theſe loſſes, the Britiſh merchants were frequently plundered by the king's officers, who uſed to take up corn and other goods without the conſent of the owners, and keep them many years out of their money, or never pay them at all. In ſhort, the infringement of privileges due by treaty, the increaſe of duties, the decreaſe of the conſumption of Britiſh goods by means of ſumptuary laws, and the uncertainty (or rather partiality) and delay, which all muſt encounter, who attempt to recover their property by law in Portugal, altogether conſtituted ſuch an accumulation of hardſhips, as rendered it impoſſible for the Britiſh merchants to continue their trade in Portugal, unleſs they could obtain redreſs of their grievances.

More agreeable intelligence was tranſmitted by the conſul at St. Lucar in Spain, who reported, that the importation of Britiſh goods had increaſed conſiderably ſince the year 1750 at St. Lucar and Seville.

Mr. Buckland, the conſul at Nice (or Nizza) in Piedmont, at firſt reported, that there was almoſt no Engliſh trade there, but obſerved, that, if the ſilks of Piedmont were to be ſhipped at Nice, which is a free port, it would make a ſaving on that article only, which is eſtimated at 5,000 bales annually, of 40*l* or 42*l* a bale, amounting to 10,000 pounds, or guineas, a-year. And by ſubſequent letters from the ſame gentleman, it appears, that ſome ſhips had actually this year followed the plan propoſed by him with conſiderable advantage.

According to the report from Leghorn, the Danes and the French were hurting us in the fiſh trade; the French were getting the better of us in the woollen manufactures; and the Spaniards, who had lately opened ſome lead mines, were leſſening the conſumption of Engliſh lead. The other ſtates of Italy were drawing the trade from Leghorn, which, however, was no diſadvantage in a general view of the Britiſh commerce.

By the report from Meſſina in Sicily, the Britiſh trade in that iſland was about one third leſs than formerly, owing chiefly to the general poverty of the people, occaſioned by the oppreſſion of the barons, and the defective adminiſtration of juſtice; the object of the government

being the immediate increaſe of the revenue, without any regard to future conſequences. There were ſtill, however, more Engliſh woollen goods than Dutch or French conſumed in Sicily, our returns being chiefly in raw and thrown ſilks ſhipped for England, and corn ſhipped for Spain and Portugal, the freights of which were conſiderable.

The merchants ſettled at Conſtantinople, and the ſeveral ports in the Levant, complained of the great decline in the ſales of Britiſh woollen goods in thoſe parts, thoſe of the French being now to the Britiſh as three to one; whereas formerly they uſed to be only as one to three. The want of a lazaretto in England for ſtoring their goods, when there is a ſuſpicion of the plague being in the Levant, was alſo complained of as a great grievance, which, together with the importation of Turkey goods by merchants not free of their company, and the hardſhips put upon them by the Turkiſh government, altogether rendered their trade rather prejudicial, than profitable, to them. They repreſented their trade as being more advantageous to the nation than any other, as their exports conſiſt almoſt entirely in woollen manufactures; and, by a rule of their company, no bullion is ever exported: and, on the other hand, their returns are in raw ſilk and moyhair, which are materials eſſentially neceſſary in ſome of our moſt important manufactures.

Mr. Fraſer, the conſul at Tripoli in Barbary, reported, that there was not a ſingle Britiſh merchant ſettled in the kingdom of Tripoli.

According to the reports of the conſul at Oſtend, the Britiſh trade in Flanders had increaſed greatly in the articles of tobacco, rice, and raw ſugar, ſince the year 1740; but the importation of Britiſh woollen goods, earthen ware, paper hangings, and printed linens and cottons, had conſiderably decreaſed, owing to the high duties laid on them by the Auſtrian government, and the prohibition of carrying woollen goods through the Netherlands to France and Germany: he concludes, however, by ſaying, that, 'if we can preſerve the trade as it is, the advantage is extreme, important, and conſiderable, to the nation *.'

Of the Britiſh commerce with Holland, a very ample and circumſtantial account was tranſmitted, of which the following is the ſubſtance.

There arrived in the rivers Maſe and Goree, for the ports of Roterdam, Dort, and Schiedam, from Great Britain, Ireland, and Britiſh America,

* In this report there is a curious ſpecimen of Dutch ſtratagem. A manufacture of tobacco pipes had been ſet up in Flanders, which the Dutch wiſhed to ruin. This they might have effected by a very large importation of the article; but the high duty rendered that expedient too expenſive; they therefor *loaded a large ſhip with pipes*, and purpoſely wrecked her near Oſtend. Agreeable to the marine laws of that city, the cargo of pipes was landed, and ſold there at ſuch low prices, that the new manufacture at once ſunk under the blow. But if it could have ſtood its ground againſt this one effort of Dutch malevolence, it is not probable that their eagerneſs to prevent any body from living but themſelves would have gone ſo far as to repeat ſo coſtly a project.

In the year 1761, 1762, 1763, and 1764,
1372, 893, 847, and 881 veſſels,
which were all Britiſh property, except 46, which were Dutch. The corn trade from Great Britain to Holland, formerly conſiderable, was now confined to ſome malt imported from Yarmouth, Wells, and Burnham; the corn from the Eaſt country, and particularly Poland, being much cheaper: ſome years ago from 800 to 1,000 veſſels in a year arrived from England loaded with corn; in 1764 there were only 200 at Roterdam, and 30 at Schiedam.

About 1,000 packs of woollen manufactures from Norfolk and Yorkſhire, are annually imported at Roterdam, beſides a very conſiderable quantity from London. The value of the whole of the Engliſh woollen goods imported to Holland was eſtimated at £350,000 a-year, of which one third was ſuppoſed to be ſent to Germany.

Woollen ſtockings to the amount of from £50,000 to £70,000, are annually imported from Aberdeen; and coarſe woollen ſerges, made in the ſhire of Ayr *, to the value of £10,000.

In the year 1764 Dort, Roterdam, and Schiedam, received about 16,800 chaldrons of coals from Newcaſtle, and 310 from Sunderland, all carried in Engliſh ſhips, and all paid for with ready money: there were alſo four or five cargoes of coals every year brought from Milford, and large coals from the Firth of Forth, to the amount of about £5,000 a-year. Owing to the decreaſe of turf (or peat) in Holland, this trade was increaſing.

Holland received annually from 8,000 to 10,000 hogſheads of tobacco from Glaſgow, about as many from Whitehaven, Liverpool, and Briſtol, and it was ſuppoſed, about 5,000 from London. Four fifths of the whole tobacco went to Roterdam, and the reſt to Amſterdam.

From Cowes there came annually from 12,000 to 15,000 barrels of rice.

From 1,500 to 2,000 tuns of lead arrived annually from the Firth of Forth at Campvere, the duties on Scottiſh trade being lighter there than at Roterdam, to which the lead was conveyed in bilanders by inland navigation. About 1,000 tuns of lead were brought from Newcaſtle, Stockton, Hull, and Cheſter, as alſo a ſmall quantity of litharge, and, in time of war, ſome red lead. Lead was worth £14 or £15 a tun.

From 2,000 to 3,000 barrels of pickled ſalmon came from Scotland, value £5,000 or £6,000: this trade uſed to be very conſiderable *. From 12,000 to 14,000 barrels of red herrings and ſprats uſed to be imported here in a winter; but of late years not above 3,000 or 4,000 have

* Quere, if not rather Aberdeen-ſhire?
† The decreaſe of it may be aſcribed to the increaſed conſumption of ſalmon in London.

come, owing to the ſcarcity of the fiſh, which keeps the boats longer out, whereby the fiſh are ſpoiled, and the price advanced.

From 3,000 to 4,000 ſtraws of ſprats come every year from Aldburgh and Southwold.

In the year 1764 there arrived from Ireland 26,612 caſks of butter, (of which nearly one half from Cork) each weighing on an average 150 pounds, and valued at about 38/ ſterling.

Alſo 474 hogſheads of tallow, each about 1,300 lb. at 27/ ſterling per cwt.
445 caſks of lard, each about 150 lb. at 41/ ſterling per caſk.
118 bags of feathers, weighing each 270 lb. from Limerick.
30 tuns of kelp, at 18/, from Waterford.
30 caſks pork, at 42/, from ditto.
2,693 ſalted hides, at 42/, and
171,000 ox bones, at 69/ per thouſand.

In time of war from 10,000 to 14,000 barrels of beef uſed to come from Ireland, but in time of peace only 3,000 or 4,000, being enterable only for exportation, unleſs there is a ſcarcity.

Of alum about 260 tuns were imported annually.

Grindſtones from Newcaſtle to the value of £1,500.

Hardware was a conſiderable branch of trade, and dayly increaſing.

Felt and ſtraw hats, woollen and ſilk ſtockings, and ſilk ſtuffs, were alſo very conſiderable articles.

Engliſh printed linens and calicoes, being the common ſummer dreſs in Holland, were in every ſhop in the country. No attempts to imitate them have hitherto ſucceeded.

From 1,000 to 1,500 tuns of Honduras logwood uſed to be brought annually in time of peace from New-York, Boſton, and Rhode iſland: and from 500 to 1,000 tuns of other dying woods from the coaſt of Guinea.

Sugar, ginger, cotton, and other produce of the Britiſh Weſt-Indies, were occaſionally imported, and ſometimes in large quantities, chiefly from London.

Bottles uſed to be imported in large quantities; but the erection of a number of glaſs-houſes in theſe provinces, had now reduced the demand for that article.

Stafford-ſhire earthen ware had lately come into requeſt here, and in the neighbouring countries. The increaſe of this trade ſince about the year 1760 was ſurpriſingly great.

Horſes were frequently brought from London.

Birmingham and Sheffield wares of all kinds uſed to come in great abundance, and ſell well.

Roterdam uſually exported to Great Britain and Ireland, in the courſe of the year, about 2,400 caſks of madder, valued at about £25 per caſk.

Of flax from 900,000 to 1,000,000 ſtones (6 pounds each) from Ro-

terdam, and about 200,000 ſtones from Dort; medium value 2/6 per ſtone.

Flax-ſeed at leaſt 17,000 hogſheads; value about 50/ each,

Grave-ſtones from Namur, to the value of about -	£1,500
Mill-ſtones from Cologne, - - - -	1,200
Tarras, received rough from Germany, and prepared in Holland, - - - - - - -	2,000
Clinkers, made in Holland, - - -	2,000
Ruſhes for matting chairs, - - -	1,600

Spice,—they quantity very great, but not aſcertained.

A ſmall quantity of fine thread from Juliers, and alſo of Dutch tapes, ſail-cloth, and linens. The Britiſh demand for theſe articles, formerly very conſiderable, is dayly decreaſing.

Gold and ſilver for the ſervice of the Eaſt-India company, and alſo for other purpoſes of remittance, when the fluctuating courſe of exchange happens to require it.

Brandy and gin were formerly the chief objects of the ſmuggling trade, which was now almoſt at an end. A great quantity of gin was ſtill carried to England and Ireland to be regularly entered.

To all theſe may be added the tranſportation of German emigrants for peopling the Britiſh provinces in America *.

The Britiſh factory at Hamburgh, the members of the moſt antient commercial ſociety belonging to Great Britain, obſerved in their report, that, ſince the trade was laid open in the firſt year of William and Mary, it has been on the decline and getting into the hands of foreigners.

In time of war, Hamburgh being a conſiderable magazine for the inland conſumption of Germany, and a neutral place, many prize goods are ſent to it for ſale, both by the Engliſh and the French. During the war the Engliſh factory flouriſhed by the conſignments from England, and ſtill more by thoſe from America and the Weſt-Indies, inſomuch, that France uſed then to be ſupplied with ſugar from Hamburgh: but now from 50,000 to 60,000 hogſheads of French ſugars were carried annually to Hamburgh, and they had already driven the Engliſh ſugars out of the trade.

Such is the account given by the members of the factory: but that the general Britiſh trade with Hamburgh was not on the decline, may be preſumed from the following enumeration of ſhips arrived at Hamburgh, tranſmitted by the conſul.

* This account, though long, will not be thought tedious by thoſe who wiſh to mark the changes brought about in trade by time. Inſtead of carrying our cotton to Holland, we now collect cotton from every part of the world, to ſupply the vaſt variety of extenſive manufactures, of which it is the material. Formerly we ate all our meat off plates made at Delf in Holland: now the Dutch generally uſe our Stafford-ſhire plates. And it is pleaſing to obſerve, that almoſt all the other alterations are favourable to the Britiſh manufactures.

In the year 1760, 1761, 1762, and 1763, there arrived
160, 220, 240, and 209 Britiſh ſhips.

The arrivals at Hamburgh in the year 1764, were

from	Britiſh veſſels.	Hamburghers.	Of other nations.		Total.
Britiſh ports, -	231	56		36	323
Britiſh American colonies,	2			2	4
France, -	7	37	French, 2 Dutch, 103 Others, 49	154	198
Spain, - -	5	4	(no Spaniſh)	19	28
Portugal, Italy, Ruſſia,	18	13		48	79
Sweden, Norway,		5	Swediſh, 31	74	79
Greenland, Baltic, North ſea, Stettin,	4	42	Dutch, &c. 43	53	99
	267	157		386	810

There arrived at Hamburgh in the year 1765,

from	Britiſh veſſels.	Hamburghers.	Of other nations.		Total.
Britiſh ports, -	218	41		33	292
France, -	5	36	French, 5 Dutch, 125 Others, 41	171	212
Spain, Canaries,	10	3	Spaniſh, 2 Others, 45	47	60
Portugal,		1		14	15
Italy,	16		(no Italian)	19	35
Ruſſia, Sweden, Norway, Greenland,	3	61		93	157
	252	142		377	771

The decreaſe of Britiſh ſhips this year was chiefly owing to the Hamburgh ſugar-refiners having overſtocked themſelves with ſugars in the year 1764, and not to the apprehended ſuperiority of the French in that article; the French imports being alſo lower in ſugars this year than the laſt, but higher in wines from Bourdeaux.

The Britiſh trade to Denmark was ſaid to be almoſt annihilated at this time.

The conſuls and merchants at Barcelona, Mahon, Smyrna, Madeira,

and Naples, complained in general of oppreſſive laws and cuſtoms, and arbitrary proceedings of the people in power.

There were many other reports, which contained nothing particular with reſpect to commerce.

To this view of the trade of our merchants ſettled in foreign countries I ſhall add an account of the ſhipping in two of our principal ports.

There were entered inward this year at Briſtol 384 Britiſh, and 47 foreign, veſſels; and outward 319 Britiſh, and 44 foreign *.

In Liverpool there was entered inward 738 Britiſh, and 65 foreign, veſſels; and outward 795 Britiſh, and 70 foreign.

In the year 1565 Liverpool poſſeſſed only 12 veſſels, the whole burthen of which was only 225 tuns, not the burthen of one modern ſizeable ſhip for foreign trade.

From theſe ſtatements it appears, that Liverpool had gained ground greatly upon Briſtol, and was henceforth to be conſidered as the ſecond port in Britain, and the commercial capital of the weſt coaſt.

In Hindooſtan we have ſeen that Coſſim Aly Cawn was driven by the arms of the Eaſt-India company to ſeek for refuge at the court of Sujah Dowlah nabob of Oude, who, after the death of Major Adams, openly eſpouſed the cauſe of the exiled nabob. Though Sujah was a prince of conſiderable military talents and reputation in the country, his army, together with that of Coſſim, was completely routed with great ſlaughter by Major Munro at Buxar (22d October 1764); and ſoon after Allahabad, one of his moſt conſiderable cities, fell into the hands of Sir Robert Fletcher (who ſucceeded Major Munro); and in May 1765 Sujah himſelf ſurrendered to General Carnac (the ſucceſſor of Sir Robert Fletcher) ſubmitting the determination of his fate to the arbitration of Lord Clive, when he ſhould arrive. And thus Coſſim, for whoſe perſonal ſafety Sujah had previouſly provided, was again reduced to the condition of a fugitive.

In the meantime Mir Jaffier, the company's nabob of Bengal, died, having, according to the cuſtom of the country, appointed his oldeſt ſurviving ſon his ſucceſſor, in preference to his grandſon, the infant child of his oldeſt ſon, who died before himſelf. The ſervants of the company at Calcutta made the new nabob agree to pay the company £800,000 ſterling annually, in conſideration of which they engaged to relieve him from the trouble and expenſe of maintaining an army, and to take the defence of his country into their own hands. They alſo bound him to many other very hard conditions, one of which was, that his prime miniſter ſhould be appointed by them; or,

* Mr. Anderſon (under the year 1754) relates, that in the year 1743 he was *told*, that there were 420 ſhips belonging to Briſtol employed in foreign trade.

in other words, that they ſhould ſend a governor to rule the kingdom, and leave him only an empty title.

Such was the ſituation of affairs, when Lord Clive arrived at Calcutta (3d May 1765), with more ample powers than any preceding governor of Bengal had ever been veſted with. He adopted the policy of making Sujah a friend, inſtead of an indignant conquered enemy, and reſtored all his dominions, except the provinces of Corah and Allahabad, which he aſſigned as part of an eſtabliſhment for the nominal mogul, who had thrown himſelf upon the protection of the Britiſh army. At the ſame time he obtained from the mogul a formal grant to the company of the adminiſtration of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, on condition of paying an annual quit-rent of 26 lacks of rupees (£260,000). Thus a territory much larger than Great Britain and Ireland, producing at leaſt a million ſterling of net revenue,* and containing at leaſt ten millions of inhabitants, was acquired to the company; a proviſion was made for the repreſentative of the antient potent ſovereigns of Hindooſtan, who till now was not in poſſeſſion of any certain revenue or reſidence; and Sujah Dowlah was in a better ſituation than he expected after his unfortunate campaign. As for the nabob of Bengal, a penſion of 53 lacks of rupees (£530,000) was allowed him by the company ‡.

In the courſe of this year ſeveral improvements were made in the chemical and mechanic arts ſubſervient to ſome important manufactures. The ſociety for the encouragement of arts, &c. gave a premium of £100 to Mr. Spurrit of Iſleworth for his method of dying cotton yarn of a durable Turkey red; and Mr. D'Ambournay, a botaniſt of Paris, diſcovered a dye-ſtuff, which produced the ſame effect. A premium for the ſame uſeful diſcovery was alſo offered by a ſociety for the encouragement of the arts in Hamburgh. The proceſs of dying purple and crimſon with a vegetable, which is quite common, was exhibited by the baron de Beuſt before the chemical committee of the ſociety of arts. In New-England they fell upon the method of making pot-aſhes, equal to thoſe of Hungary, for the uſe of the glaſs-maker and bleacher; and pearl-aſhes were brought from Minorca, then a part of the Britiſh dominions, which were ſcarcely inferior to thoſe of Trieſte. A tanner of Battle in Suſſex diſcovered a method of tanning calf ſkins with the ſaw-duſt of oak, whereby every particle of that valuable wood may be rendered uſeful, and the oak trees may be allowed to grow up to a ſufficient ſize for their noble deſtination of ſhip-building. Mr. Charles Douglas Bowden, and Mr. Erſkine, each

* Lord Clive eſtimated the net revenue at £1,700,000 ſterling.

† I have borrowed part of this narrative from Major Rennell's ſketches of the hiſtory of Hindooſtan, prefixed to his *Memoir of a map of Hindooſtan*.

invented a new engine for raiſing water, and both; being ſubmitted to the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, were by them conſidered as ſuperior to the chain pump.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,076	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	542,566 tuns,
and of Scotland	1,308	- - - - -	75,136
Total -	8,348		617,702

The net amount of the cuſtoms including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of the year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London - £2,264,231 17 5
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh - 7,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain £2,271,231 17 5

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year
11,520 pounds of gold, value - - £538,272 0 0
and 6 pounds of ſilver, - - 18 12 0

£538,290 12 0

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1764 to Chriſtmas 1765, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa - -	£51,692 2 11	£53 5 0	£469,034 14 4	£371 19 0
Canaries - -	8,501 4 11		42,365 15 8	
Denmark, &c.	85,901 3 9	34,204 9 3	132,588 16 10	47,512 8 4
East Country - -	128,901 18 2		239,717 5 5	
East-India - -	1,455,589 1 2		914,278 14 1	
Flanders - -	146,412 4 9	568 12 0	456,817 19 1	49,082 0 5
France - -	186,333 8 10	1,202 8 7	153,076 11 0	130,149 11 8
Germany - -	602,624 12 7	6,024 17 1	1,869,465 18 8	42,262 10 8
Greenland - -	10,639 11 0	4,254 0 10	15 5 7	
Holland - -	420,273 4 3	101,293 12 5	2,026,772 16 11	373,245 10 9
Ireland - -	1,070,533 11 11	84,651 7 8	1,767,020 1 6	276,310 11 4
Mann - -		73 2 0		804 0 8
Italy - -	785,030 7 6	1,769 7 10	824,803 5 8	10,277 1 0
Madeira - -	3,974 12 1	78 5 5	40,797 3 3	320 0 0
Poland - -		16,572 5 10		836 0 2
Prussia - -		7,609 2 0		61 4 0
Portugal - -	354,307 5 1	13,996 12 1	679,037 16 1	3,110 0 10
Ruſſia - -	967,339 11 7	89,801 12 0	76,170 18 9	249 1 6
Spain - -	594,893 9 3	7,695 17 2	1,237,551 3 11	10,667 8 7
Straits - -	28,057 7 8		80,306 16 0	
Sweden - -	234,452 0 1	32,306 1 1	49,003 17 8	5,454 14 6
Turkey - -	122,652 2 11		91,735 1 3	

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Venice	£47,912 11 10		£22,481 1 4	
Guernsey, &c.	34,545 8 5	£2,082 12 10	42,467 13 5	
America in general		423,885 8 3		£185,733 16 4
Hudson's bay	10,654 10 1		4,394 5 5	
Newfoundland	43,928 4 11		70,498 7 9	
St. John's Iſland			862 11 9	
Quebec	39,034 4 2		213,509 14 9	
Nova-Scotia	164 2 1		48,211 19 8	
New-England	145,819 0 1		451,299 14 7	
New-York	54,959 18 2		382,349 11 1	
Pennsylvania	25,148 10 10		363,368 17 5	
Virginia and Maryland	505,671 9 9		383,224 13 0	
Carolina	385,918 12 0		334,709 12 8	
Georgia	34,183 15 8		29,165 16 9	
Florida	684 8 4		19,888 9 8	
West-Indies in general		91,360 2 6	1,383 15 3	44,429 16 9
Antigua	159,152 12 5		149,751 1 8	
Anguilla	3,536 11 0			
Barbados	326,688 6 8		191,202 19 0	
Bermuda	9,973 4 8		17,715 15 3	
Dominica	73,497 10 10		8,656 3 3	
Grenada	109,909 0 11		77,673 9 1	
Guadaloupe	66,560 15 7			
Havanna	6,451 0 0			
Jamaica	1,023,091 13 9		415,624 0 4	
Martinique	24 16 1			
Montserrat	66,694 12 11		15,938 15 4	
Nevis	54,528 17 6		11,905 19 5	
St. Chriſtophers	245,095 3 7		111,357 9 11	
St. Lucia	447 3 6			
St. Vincents	4,459 14 5		1,443 18 9	
Tobago			546 19 11	
Tortola	38,972 13 10		21,171 17 9	
New-Providence	4,871 3 5		4,227 18 3	
St. Croix	7,089 10 4		4,800 18 11	
Foreign West-Indies	11,874 5 8	2,918 5 11	113 8 8	
Imp. and exp. of England	10,889,742 13 10		14,550,507 1 8	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	922,401 7 9	922,401 7 9	1,213,360 8 10	1,213,360 8 10
Total, Great Britain	11,812,144 1 7		15,763,867 10 6	

1766—The French were very intent upon the reſtoration of their manufactures and commerce, which had been very much injured and deranged in the late war, and they ſo far ſucceeded, that by this time they had in a great meaſure recovered their trade with many parts of the world. Notwithſtanding the diſaſters produced by a hurricane, the moſt tremendous that ever was known, in their Weſt-India ſettlements, their colonies in that quarter of the world were again in a flouriſhing condition; and their ſpirit of enterpriſe and induſtry was ſurmounting all obſtacles in the way of their proſperity. About this time they obtained permiſſion of the court of Ruſſia to eſtabliſh a French factory at Archangel (the ſeat of the firſt Britiſh trade with that country) from which they expected great commercial advantages.

From the year 1757, when the bounty on the buſſes fitted out for the herring fiſhery was raiſed from 30ſ to 50ſ a tun, the number of buſſes and men employed in that buſineſs had been conſiderably increaſed on the weſt coaſt of Scotland, where the commercial ſpirit of Glaſgow had inſpired an ardour of enterpriſe unknown to the reſt of the country, which carried the fiſhery in that quarter to ſome extent, when all the attempts to eſtabliſh it in the other parts of Scotland had proved abortive; and it was alſo ſupported by a briſk demand in Ireland and the Weſt-Indies, as well as for the home conſumption, the trueſt and moſt effectual encouragement to any undertaking. But all of a ſudden the progreſs of their proſperity was arreſted by the dreadful and unexpected ſtoppage of the payment of the bounty on the return of the fleet in January; the reaſon aſſigned for which was, that the peculiar branch of the Scottiſh revenue appropriated for that ſervice was already anticipated for ſome years *. Many of the buſs-owners, who had embarked their all, and ſome of them much more than their all, in building buſſes, providing nets, caſks, ſalt, &c. were ruined; and the damage ſuffered by the inhabitants of Campbelltown alone in buſſes, nets, caſks, and buildings, was eſtimated by Mr. Knox at £335,049.† Such of the adventurers, as were able to ſtand the ſhock, ſtill perſevered in the fiſhery, in compaſſion to the multitude of people dependent upon them, and as the only way of employing the capital already engaged in it, truſting to the payment of the bounty on ſome future day; and accordingly in the following year they fitted out 263 buſſes. But nobody could long perſevere in a fiſhery ſo circumſtanced, or continue ſubject to the expenſes and reſtrictions of the bounty laws without receiving the bounty ‡. Some, however, by ſending their veſſels to clear out at Whitehaven §, obtained a regular payment of their bounty, which in the Engliſh ports was payable, not from a particular fund, as in Scotland, but from the general revenue of the kingdom.

The merchants and traders of the city of Dublin repreſented to the

* The bounties were paid off in time, but moſtly into the hands of people, who had brought the certificates at a large diſcount from the adventurers in the fiſhery.

† See *Knox's View of the Britiſh empire, p.* 200.

‡ As ſo great an author as Doctor Smith has given his opinion, that the bounty, even when reduced to 30ſ, is too favourable to the adventurers, and too expenſive to the nation, it is proper to obſerve, that the ſupernumerary hands they are obliged to ſhip, and the many reſtrictions and expenſes, to which they are ſubjected by the bounty laws (to ſay nothing of vexatious litigations and officer's fees) muſt at all times effectually prevent any adventurer from fitting out veſſels 'for the 'ſole purpoſe of catching, not the fiſh, but the 'bounty.' With reſpect to the decline of the fiſhery by open boats, which he regrets, it may be preſumed, that the views of government were at leaſt as much directed to the increaſe of the number of ſeamen, as of the quantity of herrings.

§ In the cuſtom-houſe returns from the port of Whitehaven of veſſels cleared out for the herring fiſhery in the years 1769-70-71 there is the following note 'The principal part of the veſſels 'fitted out belonged to different ports in Scot-'land, and on their return from the fiſhery diſ-'charged their cargoes at their reſpective homes.'

lord lieutenant of Ireland, that four thouſand families were ſupported by the trade of refining ſugar, in which a capital of £340,000 * was engaged; and they complained, that the bounty given on the exportation of Engliſh refined ſugar to Ireland was a hardſhip upon their trade, which it could not poſſibly bear. They therefor begged of him either to endeavour to get the bounty taken off from refined ſugar ſhipped for Ireland, or to promote a bill in the Iriſh parliament for laying a duty on the ſugar when landed in Ireland, which ſhould be equivalent to it.

The Engliſh refiners on the other hand ſtrenuouſly oppoſed the Iriſh propoſal, and inſiſted that the ſtatement given in by them was groſsly miſrepreſented.

Mr. James Cook having been appointed by the admiralty to make a ſurvey of the coaſts of Newfoundland †, with the oppoſite coaſt of Labrador, under the direction of Commodore Palliſer, governor of Newfoundland, delivered his charts at the admiralty-office: and Commodore Palliſer having propoſed to the admiralty, that Mr Cook ſhould be allowed to publiſh them for the ſervice and encouragement of navigation in thoſe ſeas, they were accordingly publiſhed. Mr. Cook had already, in the year 1759, made a ſurvey of the River St. Laurence, which was alſo publiſhed: and it has been found ſo correct, that it was never thought neceſſary to make any other after it ‡. Theſe were the firſt public diſplays of thoſe great geographical talents, which pointed out Cook as the proper conductor of the voyages of diſcovery, which will tranſmit his fame to the lateſt ages.

February 5th—A treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Sweden, wherein it was ſtipulated, that their ſubjects ſhould mutually enjoy in the ports of either kingdom all the advantages granted by either to the moſt favoured nations, excepting only an article in a treaty between Sweden and France (dated $\frac{1}{2}\frac{4}{5}$ April 1741) relating to the duties payable in the port of Wiſmar §.

A letter from General O'Hara, governor of Senegambia, ſtates, that Galam, a country ſituated on the upper part of the River Senegal, is very rich in gold, and ſupplies all the Barbary ſtates with that pretious metal. He ſays, it conſumes a very great quantity of manufactures, which are

* The petition of the importers and manufacturers of ſugar to the Iriſh parliament, ſtates the capital employed at £400,000.

† Mr. Cook diſcovered very copious mines of coal in Newfoundland, ſo cloſe to the ſhore, that the coals might be thrown directly from the works into the veſſels; an object ſurely worthy of attention. [*Forſter's Voyages in the North, p. 297 of Engliſh tranſlation.*]

‡ Sir Hugh Palliſer, his commanding officer, ſaid he had reaſon to believe, that Mr. Cook had never attempted to draw a chart before he began his ſurvey of the River St. Laurence. But he was one of thoſe heaven-taught geniuſes, who make greater progreſs in ſcience by their own powers and application than others can do by inſtruction.

§ The other articles of this treaty, which is uncommonly ſhort, contain nothing concerning commerce. The reader may ſee it in *A collection of treaties, by George Chalmers Eſq. V. i, p. 60.*

carried by numerous caravans from Morocco, Algier, Tunis, Tripoli, and Grand Cairo: and he adviſes, that the Britiſh conſuls at theſe places ſhould be directed to ſend intelligent perſons along with thoſe caravans in order to learn the nature of the trade; a plan, apparently, as well adapted as any to obtain the knowlege of the interior parts of Africa, now ſo much the object of public curioſity. He adds, that for theſe laſt fifty years there have been annually ſhipped from Africa about 70,000 of its prime inhabitants; from whence it may be concluded, that that continent muſt be extremely populous to ſupply ſo conſiderable an annual drain.

February 19th—Corn being ſcarce, the importation of it from the Britiſh colonies in America for a limited time, was permitted by an act of parliament. Oats and oat-meal were alſo allowed to be imported; and all exportation of corn, meal, flour, bread, and ſtarch, was prohibited for a limited time. [6 *Geo. III, cc.* 4, 5.]

The lords of trade, having fully conſidered every information produced to them upon the affairs of Newfoundland and the territories annexed to it, repreſented to the king, that an illicit and deſtructive trade was carried on there with the French ſettled at Miquelon * and St. Pierre; that the concurrent fiſhery of the Britiſh and French ſubjects had produced many difficulties and embarraſſments; and that a ſtate of inhabitance, unreſtrained by any form or conſtitutions of civil government, had operated to the total ſubverſion of that policy, upon which the fiſheries dependent upon that iſland were originally eſtabliſhed, and defeated the great national advantages of the ſtatute of 10th 11th William III, principally by ſetting up excluſive claims to all the places on the ſhore which are uſeful for curing the fiſh; and ſuch claims of property, if they are permitted, are alone ſufficient to baniſh from the coaſt the ſhip-fiſhing, which Commodore Palliſer conceives to be the only ſpecies of the fiſhery attended with the great national advantage of breeding a hardy race of ſeamen, capable of manning the navy in caſes of emergency.

The fiſhery upon the coaſt of Labrador was embarraſſed by claims ſet up by the antient French proprietors for fiſhing poſts, and by others, who had engaged in fiſhing ſchemes upon the ſtrength of temporary grants made to them by the governor of Quebec, before the limits of the governments were aſcertained, who all complained loudly of the regulations publiſhed and enforced by Commodore Palliſer, to whoſe government of Newfoundled that country was annexed. According to Commodore Palliſer's accounts, the cod-fiſhery is more abundant, and

* Miquelon about this time received a conſiderable increaſe of inhabitants, by the receſſion of ſeveral hundreds of French Acadians and Indians from the Britiſh province of Nova-Scotia, who built a kind of town upon the iſland.

in all reſpects more advantageous, on the coaſts of Labrador than on thoſe of Newfoundland; and the fiſhery of ſeals and ſea-cows can be but a ſecondary object, confined to particular ſpots of the coaſt, and carried on at a time when it does not interfere with the more important fiſhery for cod. The climate being ſo ſevere, and the country, where not covered with wood, being either bare rock or deep moſs, no kind of agriculture can ever be carried on in it, further than the culture of ſome garden ſtuffs during the few weeks of ſummer: therefor it can never be uſeful in any other way than as a ſtation for an excellent fiſhery; cod, whale, ſeal, and ſalmon, being all in great abundance, and of the beſt quality.

A deſcription of the iſlands of Madelaine and St. John, tranſmitted about this time by Captain Holland, ſurveyor-general of the northern diſtrict of America, gives a particular account of the ſea-cows *, and the amount of the oil made from thoſe animals on that iſland in the year 1765, viz.

In the ſpring of 1765, there were taken on two echouries † 2,000 ſea-cows, which made 900 barrels of oil, the value of which was £2,137; of which two-thirds belong to the undertakers, who pay all charges, the people employed having inſtead of wages one clear third of the oil, which they generally ſell to the undertakers.

The iſland of Madelaine appears to be uſeful for no other purpoſe but the capture of theſe animals, and the ſeal and cod fiſhery. The ſoil is generally ſandy, producing little elſe but ſmall pines, and ſpruce, juniper berries, ſtrawberries, raſpberries, &c. The only animals are foxes, which are generally ſilver grey.

According to Captain Holland's deſcription of the iſland of St. John in the Gulf of St. Laurence, the lands formerly cleared in it had almoſt returned to a ſtate of nature. The ground was covered with ſtrawberries, and, with proper culture, might produce moſt kinds of grain and garden ſtuffs; but the extreme rigour and long duration of the winter will ever prevent this country from being valuable as an agricultural ſettlement. It has plenty of beaſts, birds, and fiſh, and is exempted from the perpetual fogs, which involve the neighbouring iſlands of Cape Breton and Newfoundland.

* Thoſe animals being even now but little known, a brief deſcription of them may be acceptable. When very young, they weigh only about 50 pounds, but in five or ſix years they get to the weight of about 2,000 pounds. They are very ugly, reſembling a toad in form and colour with a head ſomewhat like that of a cow (whence their name) having in each upper jaw a tuſk of ivory about a foot and a half long. They have four fins armed with ſmall claws, by means of which they can clamber up a ſteep bank. They can ſcarcely ſee an object at the diſtance of twenty yards; but their ſenſes of ſmelling and hearing are ſo very acute, that, if the men, who attack them when baſking on the land, did not approach them on the leeward ſide, they would inſtantly ruſh into the ſea, and probably carry their invaders along with them. Their ſkins are an inch in thickneſs, and are cut into traces; but the moſt valuable part is the fat, of which the oil is made.

† So the French called the ſloping banks frequented by the ſea-cows for reſting and baſking upon.

The long-dependent buſineſs of the Canada bills was finally and amicably ſettled. But, in order to render the affair intelligible, it will be neceſſary to look back to the origin of thoſe bills.

However profitable the trade of Canada, when under the French dominion, may have been to the individuals concerned in it, it was far from being profitable to the ſovereign. The expenſes of that province, from 1,700,000 livres in the year 1749, roſe higher and higher every year, and in 1759, the laſt year that it belonged to France, amounted to 26,000,000. Theſe ſums were not paid in hard money, but in paper cards of from 24 livres down to 7 livres 6 ſous, bearing the arms of France, and ſigned by the governor, the intendant, and the comptroller, to the amount of about a million of livres; and alſo in ordonnances of from 1 to 100 livres, which were ſigned by the intendant only; and the amount of theſe was unlimited, perhaps unknown. Thus, in conducting this buſineſs, there were two moſt enormous blunders, to call them no worſe. For ſome time theſe two kinds of paper currency anſwered all the purpoſes of real money in the country; and, as the holders got bills of exchange on the treaſury of France for them every year in October, they were preferred in all tranſactions to real hard caſh. The bills of exchange were regularly paid till the year 1754, when, on account of the prodigious increaſe of their amount, the payment was deferred; but in 1759 it was abſolutely refuſed, till an inquiry ſhould be made into the real value of them: for it is almoſt needleſs to ſay, that immediately after the firſt delay of the payment their value depretiated.

In the later end of the year 1763 an inquiry was inſtituted at Paris, and moſt ſcandalous malverſations were diſcovered. Some of the defaulters, by a profuſe diſtribution of their ill-gotten wealth, eſcaped puniſhment and reſtitution, while others were baniſhed and compelled to refund large ſums, which altogether amounted to 12,965,000 livres.

The bills of exchange were reduced to one half of their nominal value, and the ordonnances to one quarter: and both were paid in contracts, or tickets, bearing intereſt at four per cent, which were ſoon after ſold at a very low price *.

Of the Canada paper, which at the peace altogether amounted to 80 millions of livres, the Canadian French held 34 millions in ordonnances, and 7 millions in bills of exchange. As theſe people at the peace became Britiſh ſubjects, and as moreover a very large proportion of the paper had come into the hands of Britiſh merchants ſettled in Canada, and was remitted by them to their correſpondents in London, the Britiſh government took an active concern in procuring payment of it.

* Such was the low ſtate of their credit in London, that a parcel of them, amounting to ſeveral hundred thouſand livres, was ſold at Garraway's in March 1765 at from 9 to 30 per cent.

By an arret of the French council of ſtate, dated 29th December 1765, the intereſt was raiſed from 4 to 4½ per cent, and the holders of the bills were required to get them liquidated before the 1ſt of March 1766, on penalty of their becoming void; but the ſubjects of Great Britain, on account of the diſtance of Canada, were indulged with further time to h 1ſt of October 1766.

At laſt (March 29th) after long delays, a convention for the liquidation of the Canada paper belonging to Britiſh ſubjects was concluded at London between General Conway and the Comte de Guerchy, wherein the reduction of the value, and the rate of intereſt, as formerly ſettled by the court of France, were acquieſced in, and the neceſſary forms to be obſerved in aſcertaining the Britiſh property, as alſo the ſteps to be taken for obtaining reconnoiſſances, or rent contracts, were ſettled. The court of France, moreover, ſtipulated to deliver to the Britiſh proprietors in April 1766, by the hands of the Britiſh ambaſſador at Paris, 500,000 livres in money, and 2,500,000 in rent contracts bearing intereſt from the 1ſt of January 1766, as an indemnification *, on condition that all Canada paper of Britiſh property, not liquidated in the preſcribed time, ſhould ſhare the ſame fate with that of French property.

To this convention Meſſieurs Brook Watſon, Robert Allen, Francis Rybot, Robert Hunter, Iſidore Lynch, Charles Crockat, William Greenwood, Robert Grant, and Daniel Vialars, who were the committee of London merchants choſen by the proprietors of Canada paper to manage their concerns, added, with the approbation of General Conway, ſeveral regulations for the diſtribution of the money, &c. which they appointed to be in November 1766 †.

The iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines being in a much more advanced ſtate of cultivation, and much more populous than the other ceded iſlands, the legiſlature for them was completed by the election of a ſeparate aſſembly for thoſe iſlands only, who accordingly met for the firſt time on the 15th of April, and in an addreſs to the king on the completion of the legiſlative ſyſtem for Grenada expreſſed their ſenſe of the important truſt repoſed in them; 'in conjunction with a governor, '(General Melville) who has given conſtant and diſtinguiſhed proofs, 'that his whole ſentiments and conduct are formed for the proſperity 'and good of theſe iſlands, by views the moſt diſintereſted, and upon 'principles the moſt candid and impartial.' But, notwithſtanding this harmonious outſet, the new aſſembly, unfortunately conceiving too high an idea of their own powers and privileges, immediately went to variance

* Raynal ſays, that the Britiſh proprietors thereby got 55 per cent for their bills of exchange, and 34 per cent for their ordonnances; while the French ſubjects were obliged to reſt ſatisfied with the original compoſition of 50 and 25. But, as he is miſtaken in the amount of the indemnification, we may preſume that he is erroneous in his calculation.

† The Canada bills were not finally paid off by the French treaſury till the year 1772.

with the council, by which, and ſome unconſtitutional proceedings, they compelled the governor to diſſolve them on the 21ſt of May.

Dominica, St. Vincents, and Tobago, not being ſo well advanced in population and culture, retained ſtill their original temporary form of government, adminiſtered by a lieutenant-governor and a council in each iſland, ſubordinate to the governor-general of Grenada and the other ceded iſlands.

If we turn our eyes to the continent of America, we there ſee much turbulence and confuſion, the conſequence of a general diſpoſition to diſown the ſupremacy of Great Britain. But the country felt little or no diſtreſs: the warehouſes of the merchants were full of goods, for which no payment was made, and for which, conſidering the condition the country then was in with reſpect to money, from the ſuppreſſion of thoſe branches of trade, which uſed to ſupply the means of making remittances in caſh or bills of exchange, very little payment could be made. It is true, that, when thoſe goods were conſumed, no more would come to replace them, at leaſt not in the ſame channel of trade; but that was no great inconvenience in a country, which produces within itſelf every real neceſſary, with a large ſhare of the comforts of life, and among a people, vying with each other, not in the oſtentation of extravagance and the conſumption of foreign vanities, but in the oſtentation of parſimony and the pride of encouraging their own infant manufactures. But no petitions againſt the ſtamp act were forwarded this year from any of the continental colonies * except Virginia and Georgia, the others having apparently determined to deſiſt from ſuch applications, in conſequence of the ill ſucceſs of their former ones.

In the meantime the effects of the American non-importation were ſenſibly felt in every part of Great Britain. The merchants connected with America found themſelves unable to fulfill their engagements by the ſtoppage of the payment of ſeveral millions due to them from their American correſpondents; the whole ſyſtem of their buſineſs was deranged, and general diſtreſs was diffuſed throughout the wide-ſpreading circle of their connections; the manufacturers ſuffered by the want of regular payments from the merchants, and moreover found their materials and made-up goods in a great meaſure become a dead ſtock upon their hands; in conſequence of which great numbers of their workmen and other dependents were reduced to idleneſs and want of bread, at a time, when, to heighten the diſtreſs, proviſions were extravagantly dear. Petitions were preſented from London, Liverpool, Briſtol, Lancaſter, Hull, Glaſgow, and, in a word, from all the trading and manufacturing towns, wherein were diſplayed in the ſtrongeſt colours the advantages derived from the trade with America in the vaſt, and increaſing conſump-

* That is to ſay, in their corporate capacity: but a memorial, or petition, was ſent home ſigned by 280 merchants of Philadelphia. A petition was alſo ſent home from Jamaica (and, I believe, from no other of the Weſt-India iſlands) againſt the ſtamp act.

tion of Britiſh manufactures, and alſo of foreign goods ſhipped for America, which were paid for with Britiſh or American goods; the valuable nature of the returns received from America, being moſtly either the materials of our manufactures or of a profitable re-exportation; beſides which we annually received large balances in bullion or bills of exchange, which were in fact the profits made by the coloniſts in their trade with other countries, poured into the general maſs of Britiſh wealth: and it was obſerved that many thouſands of manufacturers, labourers, and ſeamen, employed in the various operations of that extenſive commerce, muſt now be thrown deſtitute, or driven into the ſervice of other nations. But theſe compoſitions, as we may well ſuppoſe, were not free of exaggeration *.

The arguments urged in parliament, and in innumerable publications, for and againſt the right and expediency of Great Britain impoſing taxes upon America, are foreign to the nature of this work. It is ſufficient here to ſay, that the wiſdom of the legiſlature ſaw the propriety of repealing the ſtamp act. The act for its repeal [6 *Geo. III, c.* 11] was paſſed on the 18th of March, on which occaſion the ſhips in the River Thames, the coffee-houſes frequented by the American merchants, and alſo many private houſes, exhibited the uſual demonſtrations of public rejoicing †.

But this gracious and healing act was immediately followed by one, which in the preamble reflects on the American provincial legiſlatures for aſſuming, againſt law, the excluſive right of impoſing taxes upon his Majeſty's ſubjects in the colonies, and declares the American colonies ſubordinate to, and dependent upon, the crown and parliament of Great Britain, whoſe legiſlative authority is expreſsly aſſerted to extend to, and bind, the people of the American colonies, as ſubjects, in all caſes whatſoever. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 12.]

Some doubts in an act of laſt ſeſſion [*c.* 43.] for regulating the duties on Ruſſia linens imported, were removed by a new act for regulating the duties. Doubts having alſo ariſen concerning the right of importing tea by any other than the Eaſt-India company's ſhips, it was by the ſame act declared, that licences might be granted to import limited quantities from any part of Europe. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 13.]

April 11th—The duties laid on foreign cyder and perry imported (by act 3 *Geo. III, c.* 12) were raiſed to £3 per tun, and thoſe on the ſame articles

* That the American non-importation agreements had not the ſmalleſt effect upon the woollen manufactures of York-ſhire, will appear from a view of the progreſs of it, to be given in the year 1783.

† When the news of the repeal reached America, it was, notwithſtanding the diſagreeable nature of the concomitant act, [*c.* 12] received with univerſal demonſtrations of joy. Subſcriptions were made for erecting ſtatues to Mr. Pitt, who had exerted himſelf for the repeal, and reſolutions were made to prepare new dreſſes made of Britiſh manufactures for celebrating the fourth of June, the birth-day of their moſt gracious ſovereign, and to give their home-ſpun clothes to the poor. Theſe are proofs, that the ſpirit of diſaffection to the Britiſh government, though it had taken root, had not yet acquired any confirmed ſtrength among the generality of the people of America.

of home manufacture to 6*s* per hogſhead, to be paid by the retailers, and 16*s* per hogshead to be paid by factors, to whom cyder or perry is conſigned for ſale. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 14.] As the duties on theſe liquors, were no longer payable in the firſt inſtance by the makers and conſumers, the unwelcome viſits of the revenue officers in private houſes became unneceſſary, and the moſt obnoxious circumſtances in the former mode of collecting the duties were now removed, to the great ſatisfaction of the inhabitants of the cyder counties.

The importation of foreign-made gloves and mitts was totally prohibited. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 19.]

In the year 1764 Commodore Byron ſailed to take poſſeſſion of Falkland's iſlands near the ſouthern extremity of America, which had been ſtrongly recommended by Lord Anſon, as a ſtation for promoting hoſtile and predatory expeditions againſt the Spaniſh ſettlements in South-America. Thence he proceeded on a circumnavigation of the globe, in the courſe of which he diſcovered ſeveral iſlands in the Pacific ocean, ſome of which appear to have been ſeen by former navigators, and which we were more fully made acquainted with by the viſits of Cook, and other ſucceeding navigators. He arrived in England 9th May 1766.

Soon after Commodore Byron's return, Captain Wallis and Captain Carteret were diſpatched on a ſimilar voyage round the globe. They made ſome additions to our geographical knowlege by giving the poſition of many iſlands, hitherto unknown, or miſplaced. Having been ſeparated at the entrance of the Pacific ocean, Wallis returned to England in May 1768, and Carteret in March 1769.

About this time the bank of Venice reduced the intereſt of their funds to four per cent, at the ſame time offering payment of their principal to thoſe who were unwilling to accept that rate of intereſt.

May 14th—To prevent unfair preferences in diſpatching the coal ſhips at Newcaſtle and Sunderland, the agents or venders of coals in thoſe towns were by law obliged to load all ſhips in rotation, on payment being tendered to them, either in caſh, or bank poſt-bills payable in ſeven days after ſight. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 22.]

An act was paſſed for further regulating the manufacture of woollen cloths in the weſtriding of York-ſhire, and preſerving their credit in foreign parts. [6 *Geo III, c.* 23.]

And another for paving, lighting, and otherways improving, the burgh of Southwark. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 24.]

Alſo another to oblige apprentices to ſerve out their time, and to compell artificers and workmen to fulfill the contracts entered into with their employers for the time agreed upon. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

Three acts were paſſed for improving the ſtreets of London, regulating buildings, &c. [6 *Geo. III, cc.* 26, 27, 37.]

The importation and ſale of foreign-made ſilks and velvets was totally prohibited; excepting thoſe imported from India, and ſilk crapes and

tiffanies from Italy. At the ſame time breaking into any houſe or ſhop maliciouſly to deſtroy or damage any ſilk goods in the proceſs of the manufacture, was declared felony, and puniſhable with death. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 28.]

In order to preſerve the credit of the ſtocking manufacture, all perſons found guilty of marking an untrue number of threads were ſubjected to the loſs of the goods falſely marked, with a penalty of five pounds for every piece. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

The ſandy point called the Spurn at the mouth of the Humber, on which two light-houſes had been built in the reign of Charles II, having by the action of the ſea ſo far changed its form, that the light-houſes were now a conſiderable way from the point, it became neceſſary to remove them to the preſent point; for which purpoſe one of the proprietors (the others being unwilling to engage in it) was empowered to borrow money to carry on the work, which is ſo eſſential to the preſervation of veſſels paſſing along that dangerous coaſt. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 31.]

The city of Briſtol, though one of the principal commercial ports in Britain, was incommoded by ſeveral very inconvenient narrow ſtreets and paſſages, which the corporation were now empowered to widen and improve; and alſo to remove all projecting ſigns, ſheds, ſpouts, and other nuiſances, in the ſtreets. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 34.]

Some further regulations were enacted for the amendment and preſervation of the public roads. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 43.]

In order to ſupport and encourage the national commerce, ſeveral laws, now almoſt expired, were prolonged, viz. for the drawback on the exportation of foreign copper bars; for the encouragement of the ſilk manufactures; for taking off ſeveral duties on goods exported; for reducing the duties on beaver ſkins, and on ſeveral ſpiceries, imported; for the importation of all furs, the produce of the Britiſh plantations, into Great Britain only; for the preſervation of his Majeſty's woods in America, and for encouraging the importation of naval ſtores from America, and of maſts, yards, and bowſprits, from Scotland; for encouraging the growth of coffee in the Britiſh colonies; and for encouraging the manufacture of Britiſh ſail-cloth: all extended to the 24th of June 1774. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 44.]

To encourage the manufacture of cordage made of Britiſh or foreign rough hemp, except that of the American colonies, a bounty of 2/4¾ was allowed for every hundred-weight (112 pounds) of ſuch cordage exported as merchandize to any place beyond the ſeas, except the iſle of Mann: and the drawback hitherto given on exportation of foreign rough hemp was no longer allowed. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 45.]

For the encouragement of the ſilk manufactures an additional duty of 17/6 for every pound-weight (16 ounces) was laid on the crapes and tiffanies of Italy, half of which to be drawn back on exportation. For

the benefit of the linen manufacture in Ireland a quantity of gum ſenega or gum arabic, not exceeding 30 tuns annually of both together, was allowed to be carried to Ireland free of duty. Permiſſion was alſo given to import from Mann in Britiſh ſhips a quantity of bugles, not exceeding 25,000 pounds, which had been in that iſland before the 1ſt of March 1765. The carriage of rum and other ſpirits, hitherto confined to veſſels of 100 tuns or upwards, was now allowed to veſſels not under 70 tuns. [6 *Geo. III*, *c.* 46.]

An additional duty of ſixpence upon every gallon of ſingle brandy or other ſpirits, and of one ſhilling upon every gallon of double brandy or other ſpirits, not produced in the Britiſh colonies, was enacted to be paid on importation. And the ſpace of ſix months, hitherto allowed to the importers to warehouſe their rum or ſpirits produced in the Britiſh colonies before paying the exciſe duties, was now enlarged to twelve months. [6 *Geo. III*, *c.* 48.]

In order to encourage the freedom of importation and exportation, under certain limitations, for the advantage of the manufactures, commerce, and navigation, of Great Britain, it was thought proper to open free ports in ſome of our Weſt-India iſlands. It was therefor enacted, that after the 1ſt of November 1766 live cattle and all other produce of foreign colonies in America, except tobacco, might be imported into Prince Rupert's bay and Roſeau in Dominica in foreign veſſels not having more than one deck. The ports of Kingſton, Savanna-la-mar, Montego-bay, and Lucea, in Jamaica were to be opened at the ſame time for the importation, alſo in ſingle-decked veſſels, of cattle, and foreign provincial produce, except ſugar, coffee, pimento, ginger, melaſſes, and tobacco. But all foreign manufactures were prohibited on pain of forfeiting veſſel and cargo. Copper ore, cotton, ginger, dying woods, hemp, indigo, melaſſes, beaver ſkins, and ſkins and furs in general, ſugar, cacao, coffee, pimento, aſhes, raw ſilk, and whale fins, from the Britiſh colonies were alſo prohibited. It was moreover declared lawful for foreign ſingle-decked veſſels to carry from the free ports negroes imported in Britiſh ſhips, and all goods lawfully imported from Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh colonies; except ſpars, pitch, tar, turpentine, tobacco, and Britiſh-American iron. The reſt of the act contains regulations for carrying foreign produce to Europe, and the duties on negroes and other merchandize to be paid in the free ports. [6 *Geo. III*, *c.* 49.]

This law appears to have been chiefly intended to encourage the Spaniards to reſort to the Britiſh free ports now to be opened; as it was ſuppoſed, that they would prefer ports, where a free entry was aſſured to them, to thoſe where they muſt depend on precarious indulgence or connivance, and be liable to ſeizure at the caprice of an officer. The event of theſe arrangements will appear in the tranſactions of the year 1773.

Perſons, who had incurred penalties inflicted by the ſtamp act, were indemnified; and all deeds, &c. upon unſtamped paper, which by that act ought to have been on ſtamped paper, were declared valid. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 50.]

Inſtead of the duties formerly paid on goods imported into the Britiſh continental colonies, the following were now to be levied, viz.

	£	s	d
On melaſſes and ſyrups *, per gallon, wine meaſure,	0	0	1
Coffee of the Britiſh plantations, per cwt. -	0	7	0
Pimento of ditto, per pound, - - -	0	0	0½
Foreign cambrics and lawns, per piece of 13 ells, -	0	3	0

Britiſh coffee and pimento, imported into North-America, and immediately warehouſed for exportation within twelve months to Great Britain or a Britiſh colony, were exempted from paying any duty. The ſame indulgence was extended to foreign ſugars, coffee, and indigo, with the further liberty of carrying the ſugar to any part of Europe ſouth of Cape Finiſterre.—Foreign cotton and indigo were allowed to be carried to the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands in veſſels navigated according to law, free of any duty: and cotton might alſo be brought in Britiſh veſſels from any place whatſoever free of duty †. By this act all ſugars brought to Britain from the northern colonies were reputed as French, and charged with duties accordingly. [6 *Geo. III, c.* 52.]

In the ſame ſeſſion of parliament many acts were paſſed for improving harbours, making canals (the chief of which will be noticed at the times when they were completed and rendered uſeful to the commerce of the country) widening and improving roads, and dividing commons.

Although the axe of deſtruction ſeemed to be laid to the root of the fiſhery of Scotland by the failure of the payment of the bounty in the month of January, ſome branches of it were this year proſecuted with conſiderable ſpirit and ſucceſs. On the weſt ſide of the country ſome fiſhing banks, formerly unknown, or forgotten for ages, were diſcovered, where cod were found in ſufficient plenty to load all the Newfoundland fleet. In the neighbourhood of the Orkney and Shetland iſlands new banks of cod and ling were alſo diſcovered. And on both ſides of the country the people were now greatly improved in the art of curing the fiſh. What a dreadful misfortune to the public, as well as to the people more immediately concerned, that their career ſhould be arreſted, when they had juſt attained to a degree of perfection in a buſineſs ſo eminently capable of augmenting the wealth, and ſupporting the maritime power, of the Britiſh empire.

* When the duty on melaſſes imported into America was ſixpence a gallon, it produced £2,000 a year. By *lowering* it to one penny, the amount was *raiſed* to £17,000. [*Lord Sheffield's Obſervations on the commerce of America, p.* 126, *ſixth ed.*] It is probable, that the quantity imported was little, if at all, increaſed; and thence we may ſee the bad policy of encouraging ſmuggling by high duties. It is certain that a great part even of the low duty was evaded.

† The wiſe policy of encouraging manufactures by freeing the materials of them from all reſtraints and burthens is better underſtood now than it was in former ages.

June 20th—A treaty of navigation and commerce was concluded with Ruſſia, the ſubſtance of which is as follows.

Art. II) The ſubjects of both powers have mutual liberty of navigation and commerce in all parts of each-other's dominions in Europe, where any other nation has, or ſhall hereafter have, ſuch liberty of navigation and commerce.

III) Ships, boats, and carriages, have perfect freedom in arriving, repairing, and departing, in all places where the ſubjects of other nations are admitted; no reſtraint ſhall be put upon the crews of either; and all deſerters ſhall be reſtored. There ſhall be perfect freedom in purchaſing goods at the current prices, the parties conforming to the laws of the country they are in.

IV) The merchants of Great Britain have liberty to carry by water or by land into every province of Ruſſia, wherein ſtrangers are permitted to trade, all kinds of merchandize not particularly prohibited. And the merchants of Ruſſia may alſo freely carry to all parts of Great Britain, which are open to foreigners, all kinds of goods not particularly prohibited; and they may buy and export all kinds of goods, which any other ſtrangers may export, and particularly wrought and unwrought gold and ſilver, except the current coin of Great Britain. In order to preſerve a juſt equality with regard to the exportation of proviſions and other commodities, it is ſtipulated, that the ſubjects of Ruſſia ſhall pay the ſame duties on exportation, that are paid by the Britiſh merchants on exporting the ſame effects from the ports of Ruſſia. The commerce of the interior parts of each country ſhall be regulated by its own laws. The Ruſſian merchants ſhall enjoy the ſame privileges as the Britiſh merchants of the Ruſſian company enjoy. There ſhall be perfect freedom on both ſides in diſpoſing of merchandize, whether the produce of the country or imported, the ſellers conforming in all things to the laws of the country they are in. Any diſputes in which Britiſh ſubjects are concerned at Peterſburgh ſhall be ſubmitted to the college of commerce, and in other towns to the tribunals which have cognizance of commercial affairs.

V) Britiſh ſubjects, if not provided with rix-dollars, may pay their duties in other foreign coin or the current coin of Ruſſia, the rix-dollar being valued at one hundred and twenty-five copecs.

VI) Ships ſhall be loaded and unloaded with all poſſible diſpatch. Britiſh ſubjects, having contracted with any chancery or college to deliver goods, and giving notice that they are ready for delivery agreeable to the time ſpecified in the contract, they ſhall immediately be received and ſettled for according to the terms of the agreement. And the ſame conduct ſhall be obſerved towards the Ruſſian merchants in the Britiſh dominions.

VII) Goods bought in either country by the ſubjects of the other ſhall

be paid for in the current coin of the country, unleſs otherways ſettled in the agreement.

8) The ſubjects of either power have permiſſion to load their ſhips and carriages in all the uſual ports of embarkation with the commodities they have purchaſed, on paying the cuſtoms, and conforming to the laws.

9) The merchants ſhall pay no higher duties on either ſide on the importation or exportation of their commodities, than are paid by the ſubjects of other nations. Goods clandeſtinely imported into either country ſhall be confiſcated; but no other puniſhment ſhall be inflicted on the importer.

10) The ſubjects of either power may freely trade with ſtates which are at war with the other, provided they do not carry military ſtores. Places actually blocked up or beſieged, by ſea or land, are excepted from this permiſſion.

11) Cannon, mortars, muſkets, piſtols, bombs, grenades, balls, flints, matches, powder, ſaltpetre, ſulphur, breaſt-plates, pikes, ſwords, belts, cartouch-bags, ſaddles and bridles, are declared to be military ſtores, and if found in quantities beyond what is neceſſary for the ſervice of the ſhip and people onboard her, ſhall be ſeized as contraband: but neither the ſhip, the people, nor the other goods found onboard ſhall be detained.

12) In caſe of war between Great Britain and Ruſſia, the perſons, ſhips, and goods, of the ſubjects of either power ſhall be perfectly at liberty for the ſpace of one year, and at their departure ſhall have power to appoint attornies to ſell their goods and collect their debts, which the debtors ſhall be obliged to pay.

13) Every aſſiſtance ſhall be given to the unhappy ſufferers by ſhipwreck; and all their goods, which can be found, ſhall be reſtored to them, they paying a moderate ſalvage for the aſſiſtance given them.

14) Britiſh merchants may build, buy, ſell, or hire, houſes in any part of Ruſſia (excepting ſome towns which have particular rights of burgherſhip): and the houſes belonging to, and inhabited by, Britiſh merchants in Peterſburg, Moſcow, and Archangel, ſhall be exempted from quartering ſoldiers, but not in other towns. They ſhall have the free exerciſe of their religion, and ſhall have power to diſpoſe of their eſtates, or to leave them by will according to the cuſtoms and laws of their own country. All theſe privileges ſhall be enjoyed in an equal degree by the ſubjects of Ruſſia in Great Britain and Ireland.

15) Britiſh ſubjects, propoſing to quit the dominions of Ruſſia, ſhall give two months notice to the college of commerce, who ſhall at the expiration of the time grant paſſports without requiring any further ſecurity. The ſame eaſy accommodation ſhall be granted to Ruſſian merchants in the Britiſh dominions.

16) In hiring domeſtics the ſubjects of either power muſt conform to the laws of the country in which they are.

17) In law proceedings the Britiſh merchants ſhall be amenable only to the college of commerce, or, in places at a diſtance from it, to the magiſtrates of the towns, with a right of appeal from them to the college of commerce. The Ruſſian merchants in the Britiſh dominions ſhall have the ſame protection and juſtice which the laws grant to foreign merchants of the moſt favoured nations.

18) The merchants of either country ſhall not be obliged to ſhow their books or papers, unleſs for the ſake of proof in the courſe of juſtice: and their books and papers ſhall upon no account whatever be ſeized. Bankrupts are to be treated according to the laws of the place. An arreſt may be laid on the effects of a debtor refuſing to pay, equivalent to the value of the debt, and, for want of ſufficient effects, on the perſon of the debtor; and delegates appointed by the creditors ſhall diſtribute the effects among them with all poſſible diſpatch. The ſame procedure ſhall be obſerved towards the Ruſſian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain.

19) 'In caſe of complaints and law ſuits, three perſons of fair and 'unblemiſhed character among the foreign merchants ſhall, with a pro-'per regard to circumſtances, be named by the college of commerce, 'and where there is no ſuch college, by the magiſtrate, to examine the 'books and papers of the parties; and the report they ſhall make to 'the college of commerce, or to the magiſtrate, of what they ſhall 'find in the ſaid books or papers, ſhall be held a good proof.'

20) The acts of the clerks or ſervants of merchants, having power from them, ſhall be binding upon them at the cuſtom-houſe. Ruſſian ſervants employed in ſhops ſhall be regiſtered, and bargains made by them ſhall bind their maſters.

21) Ruſſian merchants removing to diſtant provinces ſhall ſtill be liable to be ſued by their Britiſh creditors before the college of commerce, who, after ſeeing proof of the debt, ſhall cite them thrice; and if they do not appear in a ſufficient time, the college ſhall give judgment, which ſhall be forwarded to the governor of the province to which the debtor has removed, and by him be put in execution.

22) Brokers ſhall be obliged to make good all loſſes occaſioned by deficient quality or fraudulent package of the goods paſſing through their hands; and they ſhall receive a fair brokerage.

23) A regulation ſhall be made to prevent abuſes in the package of leather, hemp, and flax: and if any diſputes ariſe, they ſhall be determined by the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms.

24) For the encouragement of the trade of Great Britain, it is agreed, that Engliſh woollen cloths ſhall pay no higher duties than the following, viz. cloth for the ſoldiers and coarſe York-ſhire cloth (called in the

Ruſſian tariff coſtrogy) to pay (in rix-dollars) two copecs for every arſheen: broad flannels one copec, and narrow flannels three fourths of a copec, the arſheen *. And in general the Britiſh ſubjects are to be conſidered and treated as the moſt favoured nation.

This treaty was ſigned at Peterſburg by Sir George Macartney (now Earl Macartney) and by four Ruſſian noblemen on the 20th of June 1766.

June—The king of Naples having ordered his revenue officers to make a ſtrict examination of all ſingle-decked veſſels arriving in his ports, the Engliſh merchants ſettled in that kingdom immediately remonſtrated, that ſuch a proceeding would be a direct violation of the 10th article of the treaty of Madrid in the year 1667, which is the baſis of our trade with that country; wherein it was expreſsly ſtipulated, that no Britiſh veſſels, navigating within the ſtates of the king of Spain or in any of his ports, ſhould be liable to be viſited by the judges of the contraband, or by any other perſon under their, or any other, authority.

The Britiſh conſul and factory at Leghorn ſent home a memorial, ſtating the prodigious hardſhip their trade was ſubjected to in expenſes, damage of goods, delay, diſappointment, &c. from their ſhips being obliged to perform quarantine on their arrival in Great Britain. They inſiſted, that Leghorn is the port of all others in the Mediterranean, where the moſt ſtrict and judicious precautions are uſed to guard againſt infection, and conſequently, that to put a reſtraint upon their trade, from which the trade of other ports, more liable to infection, is exempted, cannot be conſiſtent with equity and commercial policy.

The young ſettlement on the Muſquito ſhore was in danger of being ruined in conſequence of the encouragement held out to the negroes by the prieſts of the neighbouring Spaniſh province to deſert from the plantations: and it was pretended, that the civil power could not interfere, as they were under the protection of the church.

In the year 1756 Meſſieurs Gordons at Leith began a manufacture of dye-ſtuff from cutbear, a kind of moſs growing upon the rocks in the Highlands †, which anſwered the purpoſes of orchil, a foreign production that uſed to be imported at a very great expenſe. A manufacture of the ſame nature was now ſet up in London, the proprietors of which engaged people to collect the material among the mountains of Lochaber. In proceſs of time it became ſcarce; and then it was brought from Norway and Sweden, for Meſſieurs Gordons, for the manufacturers in London, and afterwards for a manufactory of it eſtabliſhed at Glaſgow in the year 1777.

* So early as the year 1767, this article was violated by the Ruſſian government in a tariff impoſing higher duties on woollen goods.

† Martin in his *Deſcription of the Weſtern iſlands* [*p.* 135] deſcribes *cerkir* as a ſpecies upon the ſtones on the coaſt and on the hills, which when ground to powder and ſteeped in urine, dyes a pretty crimſon colour. It is apparently the ſame, which is now called *cutbear*, which, I find, is alſo prepared with urine.

May 13th—A reward of £700 was given by the parliament of Ireland to Meſſieurs Holt and Warring for the diſcovery of a method of tanning leather with heath boiled in a copper veſſel and applied to the leather blood-hot. What a field of enterpriſe and induſtry for the wildeſt parts of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland!

Auguſt—With a view of ſecuring to Britain the poſſeſſion of Turk's iſlands, which the French had ſome time ago made an attempt upon, by the title of occupation, the king appointed Mr. Andrew Symmer to be his agent in them, and to regulate their trade, which had hitherto conſiſted of nothing but ſalt.

The corporation of Liverpool, in the true ſpirit of a commercial community, erected an obſervatory, to be furniſhed with nautical inſtruments proper for the inſtruction of young navigators.

The Eaſt-India company thought themſelves warranted by the ſplendid acquiſitions made for them by Lord Clive to raiſe their next dividend from *three* to *five* per cent for the half year.

September—In conſequence of petitions and addreſſes from the principal cities and ſeveral other parts of the kingdom, ſetting forth the general diſtreſs occaſioned by the enormous price of bread, the king iſſued three ſeveral proclamations, before the meeting of parliament, for enforcing the laws of Edward VI and Elizabeth againſt foreſtallers and engroſſers, for laying an embargo on all veſſels loaded with wheat or flour in any of the ports of Great Britain, and for prohibiting diſtillation from wheat or wheat flour for a limited time. And by another proclamation, iſſued the day after the meeting of parliament, the embargo was prolonged, and extended to veſſels having onboard barley or malt.

The high prices had provoked the populace to riſe in many places, who in their heedleſs fury committed many atrocities tending to increaſe the evil they complained of. With all the outcry the price of the fineſt quartern loaf was only eightpence on the 27th of October *.

The method taken by government to encourage the cultivation of ſilk in Georgia was to take the cocoons off the hands of the breeders at the fixed price of 3ſ a pound, of which price at leaſt three fourths were in reality bounty: and government employed Mr. Otolenghi, a native of Piedmont, to bring the ſilk to a merchantable ſtate, and to give the ſettlers the neceſſary inſtructions for managing the worms and the ſilk. But it being now thought proper to reduce the price to 1/6, the planters of any property, who made rice and indigo their principal objects, no longer paid any attention to it, the breeding of ſilk-worms was abandoned to the very pooreſt of the people, and conſequently it never aroſe to be an object of any conſequence. The produce this year amounted only to 20,350 pounds of cocoons, raiſed by 264 per-

* In the year 1795, the quartern loaf was at 1/3, and there were no riots. What a ſtrong demonſtration of the fall in the value of money in leſs than thirty years!

ſons; from which were made 1084 pounds of ſilk, and about 1000 pounds of ſilozel and traſh.

Notwithſtanding the failure of this article, of which the moſt ſanguine hopes had been entertained, the province of Georgia was beginning to flouriſh. Hitherto its trade had been ſubjected to much inconvenience by the want of a direct intercourſe with Great Britain: but now there were three ſhips, five ſnows and brigs, and ſix ſchooners and ſloops, belonging to the inhabitants of the province; and there were four conſtant ſhips fixed in the London trade, beſides others freighted occaſionally.

The value of the trade of the province from October 1765 to October 1766, was as follows.

Imports		Exports	
From Great Britain	£83,000	To Europe - -	£55,247
the Weſt-Indies	26,242	the Weſt-Indies -	24,481
the northern colonies	12,017	the northern colonies	5,074
Africa in negroes	14,820		£84,802
		Remitted in bills	
		To Great Britain -	7,500
		the northern colonies	2,000
	£136,079		£94,302

It muſt be obſerved, however, that there was not in fact any balance remaining due to the northern coloniſts, who gave no credit, but made a point of carrying off the proceeds of their cargoes in produce, bills, gold, or ſilver.

The exports conſiſted of 12,474 barrels of rice, 38,660 pounds of indigo, 235,600 pounds of deer ſkins, 2,674,355 feet of lumber, 3,040,517 ſhingles, 829,410 ſtaves, 25,600 pounds of leather, 1,281 barrels of pitch and tar, 400 buſhels of Indian corn, 88 ſteers, 42 horſes, 290 hogs, and ſundry ſmall articles; and beſides all theſe, the annual produce of ſilk ſhipped for account of government. The deer ſkins and leather were purchaſed from the Indians, and all the other articles were procured by the induſtry of the ſettlers.

The number of white people of all ſorts in the province was about 10,000, and of the negroes at leaſt 7,800.

The following is an account of the ſkins, or furs, exported from the province of Quebec in the undermentioned years.

1764	106,035 ſkins *, beſides 58 caſks, 207 bales, and 1 trunk, whereof the contents are not aſcertained.
1765	275,206.
1766	346,794.

* 'The returns from the officers at Quebec do not diſtinguiſh the ſpecies of furs, but enter them 'under one head of *peltries ſkins*.'

The price of corn being ſtill very high, the acts prohibiting the exportation, and thoſe allowing the free importation, of it for a limited time were prolonged, as well as the, lately annual, act for the importation of ſalted proviſions from Ireland. [7 *Geo. III, cc.* 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 22.]

According to the Abbé Raynal, the quantity of tea imported from China in the courſe of this year, was as follows:

By the Engliſh,	- -	6,000,000 pounds.
the Dutch,	- -	4,500,000
the Swedes,	- -	2,400,000
the Danes,	- -	2,400,000
the French,	- -	2,100,000
		17,400,000

and he eſtimates, from obſervations and calculations made with all poſſible exactneſs during ſeveral years, and from the preference given by moſt nations to chocolate, coffee, &c. that the conſumption of tea in the continent of Europe was not more than 5,400,000 pounds, and that 6,000,000 pounds muſt have found their way into Great Britain, and been conſumed there in addition to the 6,000,000 imported by the Eaſt-India company. [*Hiſt. phil. et polit. V.* ii, *p.* 138, *ed.* 1782.]

There were ſtamped for ſale in Scotland this year 12,746,659 yards of linen, the value of which was £597,227 : 11 : 0.

There arrived this year at Peterſburg 413 veſſels, whereof 167 were Britiſh, 68 Dutch, 1 French, and the reſt Ruſſian, Swediſh, Daniſh, and German. The value of their cargoes, as rated in the cuſtom-houſe books, was 5,288,471 rubles. And there ſailed 159 Britiſh veſſels from Peterſburg, of which there were 71 for London, 52 for the other ports of England, 18 for Scotland, 6 for Ireland, 2 for Guernſey and Jerſey, 1 for Boſton in New-England, and the other 9 for ports on the continent of Europe. Their cargoes were valued at 3,270,000 rubles. Of other nations there ſailed 265 veſſels for foreign ports, carrying cargoes valued at 2,510,000 rubles. Thus greatly above a half in value, and probably alſo in bulk, of the commerce of Peterſburg was in the hands of Britiſh merchants, and *carried* by Britiſh veſſels.

The ſame obſervation holds good with reſpect to the hemp ſhipped this year at Narva, of which $\frac{1}{10}$ were brought to Britain.

The Swediſh Eaſt-India company, originally eſtabliſhed in the year 1731, and whoſe privileges were renewed in 1746, were now again chartered for twenty years more. Their ſhips are moſtly ſent to China, where their purchaſes are made almoſt entirely with ſilver, which they procure at Cadiz. Four fifths of the value of their imports have been tea, whereof but a ſmall proportion has been conſumed in their own country, and the greateſt part, there is reaſon to believe, was clan-

deſtinely imported into Great Britain, before the commutation duty entirely put an end to that principal branch of the ſmuggling trade.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,412	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	561,982 tuns.
and of Scotland	1,295	- - -	73,293
Total	8,707	- - - -	635,275

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was,

from the cuſtom-houſe in London,	-	£2,437,280 15 10
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh,	-	11,000 0 0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain,		£2,448,280 15 10

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

17,565 pounds of gold, value	- -	£820,724 12 6
and 96 pounds of ſilver,	- - -	297 12 0
		£821,022 4 6

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1765 to Chriſtmas 1766, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£52,217 3 11		£496,789 12 0	£4,088 14 9
Canaries	10,378 12 6	£2,620 4 6	47,472 13 10	437 5 9
Denmark and Norway	93,473 0 1	30,390 5 4	157,064 0 10	22,939 7 3
East Country	152,884 16 7		171,869 18 0	
East-India	1,975,981 7 9		783,961 17 10	
Flanders	125,211 8 5	1,702 17 6	433,553 12 7	30,367 11 10
France	81,470 13 9	2,451 5 6	201,032 6 10	229,466 11 10
Germany	633,672 17 11	10,049 8 0	1,811,268 2 3	67,095 5 1
Greenland	9,625 5 4	1,485 5 10	33 0 0	
Holland	374,587 0 1	123,786 12 0	1,602,924 6 7	313,921 15 7
Iceland				206 15 0
Ireland	1,154,982 4 7	95,453 12 1	1,920,015 19 6	228,761 9 10
Mann		152 10 0		185 10 10
Italy	812,179 4 0	1,509 5 3	839,838 7 7	7,865 9 2
Madeira	6,988 17 8	33 6 8	36,260 10 0	1,863 14 6
Poland		8,878 5 3		1,142 13 9
Portugal	347,806 2 2	14,179 0 2	667,104 7 8	695 4 6
Pruſſia		11,274 13 7		
Ruſſia	684,585 16 5	99,752 15 1	100,900 16 10	510 15 4
Spain	558,002 12 7	6,876 13 7	1,078,731 10 1	4,319 2 5
Straits	14,103 13 10		59,678 19 1	
Sweden	195,449 5 9	27,892 19 1	47,393 18 1	3,519 10 4
Turkey	106,522 7 9		100,796 4 4	
Venice	63,105 7 9		42,613 10 0	
Sardinia		73 1 8		
Guernſey, &c.	34,858 6 5	3,121 6 3	65,564 9 6	10,487 9 4
Hudſon's bay	10,199 17 6		4,631 6 3	
Newfoundland	45,207 15 0		65,779 10 9	1,356 3 11

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
St. John's Iſland			£560 19 2	
Quebec	£46,982 12 3	£700 4 9	366,573 4 11	£5,417 15 8
Nova-Scotia	1,433 9 4		14,181 6 5	
New-England	141,733 4 11	15,809 5 7	409,642 7 6	9,773 6 1
New-York	67,020 11 8	315 2 8	330,829 15 8	2,088 11 5
Pennſylvania	26,851 3 1	1,292 4 2	327,314 5 3	6,854 7 4
Maryland	461,693 9 4	78,859 5 10	372,548 16 1	37,789 19 7
Virginia		255,480 19 7		109,390 12 3
North Carolina	293,587 7 8	12,466 19 10	296,732 1 4	7,063 3 2
South Carolina		13,918 14 10		4,707 11 10
Georgia	53,074 16 7		67,268 5 5	
Florida	2,113 7 7		38,718 14 10	
Antigua	396,465 12 3	60,300 19 8	142,326 16 7	8,967 14 11
Anguilla	3,225 19 11			
Barbados	296,732 16 7	26,666 2 4	194,042 7 1	3,705 4 7
Bermuda	3,475 14 1		11,299 6 3	
Dominica	111,649 5 9		20,792 6 0	
Grenada	264,194 5 7	3,016 5 1	89,431 1 9	2,508 15 9
Jamaica	1,201,801 16 4	49,057 1 9	415,544 17 4	21,490 19 1
Montſerrat	71,762 2 4	2,737 18 6	26,826 1 10	
Nevis	74,200 16 0		18,989 8 0	
New-Providence	4,585 9 5		15,085 13 9	
St. Chriſtophers	304,778 9 2	13,285 0 3	91,736 17 6	8,686 15 2
St. Vincents	31,028 1 7		5,325 6 7	
Tobago			13 2 6	
Tortola	48,280 5 8		18,218 0 7	
St. Croix	11,807 3 7		1,425 7 0	
Martinique	13 15 0			
St. Lucia	581 5 0			
St. Euſtathius	96 1 6			
Havanna	1,511 3 3			
Spaniſh Weſt-Indies in general	11,601 2 6		3,555 1 11	
Weſt-Indies in general			1,673 11 0	
Imp. and exp. of England	11,475,775 5 8		14,024,964 2 8	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	980,989 12 2	980,989 12 2	1,163,704 7 10	1,163,704 7 10
Total, Great Britain	12,456,764 17 10		15,188,668 10 6	

1767—In the beginning of January the new Britiſh colony of Grenada was threatened with total deſtruction by a formidable inſurrection of the negroes, and chiefly thoſe belonging to the old French inhabitants. An armed force was immediately diſpatched into the woods and mountains, to which they had withdrawn. But the operation of it was in a great meaſure rendered unneceſſary by the prudence and humanity of General Melville, the governor-general of the ceded iſlands, who, without bloodſhed or public expenſe, but merely by the popularity he had acquired among the negroes from their confidence in his humanity and juſtice, eaſily perſuaded them to accept the pardon he offered them, and to return to their work *. General Melville's atten-

* Upon this occaſion Charles Auguſtine, a creole negro, who for his ſuperior talents was, by the free election of his aſſociates, raiſed to the pre-eminence of being their chief, or ringleader, exerted his influence to bring about an harmonious accommodation, and was in return rewarded with his

tion to the profperity of the iſland was on this occaſion further directed to the prevention of any alarm at home, whereby moſt of the planters, who in the infancy of their ſettlements were largely indebted to the merchants of London, would have been in danger of being ruined. This he effected by adviſing the publiſher of the newſpaper to forbear from mentioning the inſurrection, till he could at once relate the beginning and the termination of it, which he was happily enabled to do in his next paper: and thereby thoſe, who were concerned in the profperity of the iſland, were prevented from ever feeling the ſmalleſt uneaſineſs upon that account *.

March—The Britiſh merchants ſettled in, or trading to, Portugal complained, that for ſeme years paſt their trade had been expoſed to great and unuſual difficulties. The privileges and juriſdiction of their judge-conſervator, eſtabliſhed by antient decrees of the kings of Portugal, and confirmed by the treaty of 1654, were trampled upon. The perſons, properties, and books, of the merchants were ſeized, their houſes and warehouſes broken open, and forcibly entered, without any proper warrant; and their debtors were protected from law ſuits. A company eſtabliſhed on pretence of improving the wines of the diſtrict of Alto Douro poſſeſſed the power of appretiating every vintager's wine at their own pleaſure, whereby the intereſts of the Britiſh merchants were greatly injured, and their property was laid at the mercy of that company, who were their rivals in the wine trade, and were inveſted with very extraordinary and arbitrary powers †. The eſtabliſhment of excluſive companies for the trade to Maranham and Pernambucco, contrary to the 2d, 3d, and 9th, articles of the treaty of 1654, had ruined many of the Portugueſe merchants, who formerly carried on a flouriſhing trade to thoſe places, and they being all indebted to the Britiſh merchants, the greateſt part of the whole loſs inevitably fell upon them.

Notwithſtanding the preference ſtipulated for the Engliſh woollen manufactures by the treaty of 1703, the conſumption of them was prohibited by new ſumptuary laws. But the Britiſh merchants had the

freedom at the public expenſe. Not being willing to remain on the ſame iſland with his late maſter, whoſe oppreſſion had driven him into rebellion, he begged of the governor to accept of his ſervices upon an eſtate belonging to him in Dominica. His requeſt was granted; and he has ever ſince been employed upon wages as a driver, or black overſeer, and has diſcharged the duties of his office with fidelity and every demonſtration of gratitude. He is ſtill on the general's eſtate, and receives from him an annual preſent, which is regularly ſent out along with the plantation ſtores. This little anecdote, as containing an important leſſon to the proprietors of ſlaves, deſerves to be publicly known.

As Weſt-India goods, which now occupy ſo important a place in the general commerce of Great Britain, are produced entirely by the labour of negro ſlaves, it is of the utmoſt conſequence, that they be governed with a mild and ſteady authority by men of humanity, prudence, and liberal ſentiments. But it has too often happened, that men of a very oppoſite character have acquired the property of them, or been ſet over them by their proprietors, whoſe licentious abuſe of power has driven the unhappy ſlaves to acts of deſperation, which have more than once endangered the life of every white perſon in Jamaica, and have been revenged by the effuſion of torrents of blood, ſhed with circumſtances of deliberate cruelty, diſgraceful to any people who call themſelves civilized.

* The reader may recollect a ſimilar inſtance of prudent attention in the conduct of General Dalling the lieutenant-governor of Jamaica in the year 1760.

† Their powers ſeem to have been more ſuitable to the general of an invading army, than to a commercial company.

mortification to ſee thoſe laws diſpenſed with in favour of French cloths without any difficulty.

The court of Portugal, as if deſirous of ruining the Britiſh trade, cramped it with new duties upon goods and ſhips, and many new oppreſſive regulations and delays.

The Britiſh merchants found it next to impoſſible to recover their debts in the Portugueſe courts of juſtice: they were moreover compelled to take in payment actions (or ſhares) of the very companies, which had been ſet up with a view to deſtroy their trade, which ſhares the officers of the revenue, and even the companies themſelves, refuſed to take in payments.

The property of the Britiſh merchants was frequently ſeized for the ſervice of the king, and even for convents of monks ſupported by the king, and the payment delayed for many years, or totally withheld. The violences were committed not only in the preſſure of war, but alſo during the tranquillity of peace.

Eſtimate of the trade between Great Britain and Portugal.

Britain and the Britiſh dominions receive from Portugal		Portugal receives from Britain and the Britiſh dominions	
Wine of Oporto, 22,000 pipes, - -	£220,000	Woollen, linen, and other manufactures from Britain, rice from America, camblets from Ireland, carried to Liſbon,	£450,000[b]
——— Liſbon, 7,000, -	63,000	Fiſh from Newfoundland,	42,000
——— Madeira and the other iſlands, 12,000,	240,000[a]	Butter and beef from Ireland, - -	40,000
Oranges and lemons, 50,000 cheſts, -	75,000	Staves from America, and coals, &c. - -	8,000
Salt, 40,000 moys, -	24,000	Woollens, linens, &c. carried to Oporto, -	120,000
Oil, morocco leather, cacao, braſil wood, drugs, &c. ſay - -	8,000	Ditto to Martinho, -	25,000
Balance in favour of Britain, - -	105,000[c]	Fiſh from Newfoundland to Vianna, - -	6,000
		Manufactures and proviſions to Madeira and the other iſlands, -	44,000
	£735,000		£735,000

The following are original notes by the merchants.

a By the cuſtom-houſe books at Madeira it appears, that above 11,000 pipes were ſhipped in the year 1765 from that iſland only: ſo this article may be preſumed to be rather under, than above, the truth *.

b This ſum is taken from a tranſcript of the cuſtom-houſe books at Liſbon, procured at a great expenſe. The other articles are eſtimated by people converſant in the trade.

c The ſmallneſs of the balance will ſurpriſe thoſe, who, accuſtomed to conſider the trade with Portugal as the moſt valuable branch of the Britiſh commerce, ſuppoſe (without grounds) that it amounts to two millions annually: and ſome even pretend, that Portugal pays Britain an annual balance of two millions.

* Sir George Staunton ſtates the produce of the iſland of Madeira only at near 25,000 pipes of Madeira wine, and about 500 pipes of malmſey, the half of all which is carried to the Britiſh dominions and America. [*Embaſſy to China, V. i, p. 78 of 8vo ed.*]

The trade to the port of Faro in Algarva is not brought into this eſtimate, but the imports and exports there are nearly equal. Neither is there any eſtimate of the diamonds received from Portugal, or of the ſugars carried from Portugal to Ireland, or the corn from Ireland to Portugal.

May—The king of Denmark having eſtabliſhed a company at his town of Altona in Germany, for carrying on a herring fiſhery in the North ſea, (that is to ſay, on the coaſts of Shetland and Scotland), the ſociety of the Free Britiſh fiſhery, eſtabliſhed in the year 1750, were apprehenſive that the magiſtrates of Hamburgh, with whom they had entered into a treaty for the importation of Britiſh herrings, would be induced to give a preference to the herrings brought by their near neighbours of Altona. On this occaſion the ſociety repreſented, that the ſhips of war, appointed to attend the fiſhing grounds, might eaſily prevent foreigners from fiſhing too near the coaſt, whereby our own fiſhermen would enjoy the preferable fiſhing grounds on our own coaſts, and alſo be freed from the intolerable inſolence of the Dutch fiſhermen. They alſo aſſerted, that their induſtry and perſeverance had now ſo far ſurmounted all obſtacles, that in foreign markets the Britiſh herrings were pronounced to be ' equal, and even ſuperior, to thoſe of the Dutch.' And they expreſſed their hope, that the Britiſh miniſter at Hamburgh might be able to prevent the Daniſh herrings from being imported there on eaſier terms than the Britiſh.

The truſtees for fiſheries and manufactures in Scotland, and the convention of the royal burghs of Scotland, were conſulted with reſpect to the probable conſequences to the Britiſh fiſhery, from the eſtabliſhment of the Daniſh company at Altona; and the following facts are ſelected from the reports of thoſe boards.

For ſome years paſt the capriciouſneſs of the herrings in their migrations had carried them ſo cloſe upon the ſhores of Norway and Sweden, that they were taken at very little expenſe by ſmall boats with drag nets, whereby the ſtate of the herring trade in the Baltic and Hamburgh markets, was totally reverſed. Formerly the Scots uſed to carry great quantities of herrings to thoſe markets: but the Swedes have ſome years ago laid a duty of nine ſhillings a barrel on herrings imported from Britain. The Swedes in each of the years 1764 and 1765, exported from Gothenburg near 20,000 barrels of herrings to Ireland, whence they are carried to the Britiſh colonies, which alſo receive great quantities from the Dutch and Danes, by the clandeſtine trade from the iſlands of Saint Euſtathius and Santa Cruz.

They obſerved, that the fiſhery had been much diſcouraged by the delay of paying the bounty, which was now in arrears for three years, to the amount of £40,000, the debentures for which were ſelling at a ruinous diſcount.

The navigation of the great lakes, or inland ſeas, of America was now beginning to aſſume a reſpectable appearance. Four brigs from 40 to 70 tuns, and ſixteen armed cutters, were now ſailing upon Lake Ontario, the lowermoſt of the great chain of vaſt lakes in the interior part of North America. And we may believe that the trading intercourſe upon theſe lakes will at no very remote period emulate, or exceed, that of the Caſpian ſea.

Between May 1766 and May 1767 there were 70,000 yards of cambric made at Dundalk, the produce of 160 looms. This manufacture had already given a check to the importation of French cambrics in Ireland, and was expected to be an object of the utmoſt importance.

A duty of ſixpence a chaldron on coals for forty-ſix years was granted to the city of London, for the purpoſes of redeeming the tolls on the bridges, embanking the river, repairing the exchange, and rebuilding Newgate.

To prevent frauds in the coal trade, land coal-meters were appointed by act of parliament. The ſacks were ordered to be four feet long, and two feet wide: and the buyer, if diſſatisfied with the appearance of his quantity of coals, might have them remeaſured at his own door, whereupon, if they are found ſhort of meaſure, the ſeller is fined: but if they are found ſufficient, an expenſe of ſixpence a chaldron, and half-a-crown for every hour's demurrage of the cart, falls upon the purchaſer; which, together with a conſiderable deal of trouble attending the remeaſurement, will generally induce the buyers to ſubmit quietly to the pillage of the carmen, againſt which there is no other precaution provided. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 23.]

On the application of the magiſtrates of Edinburgh, the royalty, or juriſdiction, of the city was extended over ſeveral of the adjacent fields, with a view of building new ſtreets on the north ſide of the antient city, preparatory to which a bridge of communication was now building. At the ſame time a theatre-royal was, for the firſt time, eſtabliſhed at Edinburgh. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

An additional duty of threepence was laid on every ell of drilling and linen above yard-wide, imported. This duty, together with additional duties of ſix ſhillings per dozen upon baſt or ſtraw, chip, cane, and horſe-hair, hats and bonnets, was deſtined to go towards the payment of the intereſt of money borrowed this year. [7 *Geo. III, cc.* 20, 28.]

Rice, ſago powder, and vermicelli, were allowed to be imported free of any duties from the Britiſh colonies in America for limited times, viz. the rice till 1ſt December 1767, and the other articles till 1ſt December 1781. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 30.]

Several acts nearly expired were further continued, viz. thoſe againſt clandeſtine running of goods, and danger of infection thereby: that for

permitting rice from Carolina to be carried to any part of Europe ſouth of Cape Finiſterre, in ſhips built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law; and alſo that which prohibits the importation of books printed abroad, and copied from books firſt written and printed in this kingdom. All theſe acts were prolonged till 29th September 1774. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 35.]

The free importation of cochineal and indigo, agreeable to the act of 33 Geo. II, was continued. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 36.]

The city of London, being engaged in building a bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars, had borrowed £144,000 on the credit of the tolls to be taken on it: and a further ſum of £58,500 was eſtimated to be neceſſary to finiſh the bridge and its concomitant improvements; as alſo £7,500 for making an embankment on the north ſide of the river, from the weſt ſide of Powell's wharf near Puddle dock, to the eaſt corner of Robert's wharf near Milford lane; £50,000 for rebuilding Newgate; and £10,000 for repairing the royal exchange. It was now enacted, that in due time the new bridge ſhould be freed from the payment of the tolls taken upon it, and that London bridge ſhould alſo be freed from the tolls taken upon it: alſo that the city ſhould pay annually £800 towards paving the ſtreets of Weſtminſter, and £480 towards the pavement of the burgh of Southwark. And for all theſe improvements adequate funds were provided and apportioned. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

The Engliſh engravers having now arrived at a degree of excellence, which renders their works a conſiderable object of commerce, it becomes proper to obſerve, that the old act [8 *Geo. II, c.* 13] for ſecuring the property of engravings, was found ineffectual againſt piracies upon their property; and it was now enacted, that the proprietors of all plates of hiſtorical prints, portraits, maps, plans, or any other prints whatſoever, engraved after the firſt of January 1767, ſhould have an excluſive right to the ſame for twenty-eight years from the day of publication, ſo as to prevent any copies from being engraved, printed, or imported for ſale, provided the proſecution is commenced within ſix months after the commiſſion of the offence. And on this occaſion Mrs. Hogarth, the widow of the celebrated moral engraver, was indulged with an extra term, of about ſix years, in the excluſive property of the works of her late huſband; excepting only that copies made from the prints, of which the excluſive property was already expired agreeable to the former act, might ſtill be ſold. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 38.]

For the protection and preſervation of the roads, the weight to be carried in the ſeveral kinds of carts and waggons, was regulated according to the nature of their wheels: and weighing engines were ordered to be conſtructed at the turnpikes. Among a great number of regulations for the benefit of the roads, the eſtabliſhment of guide-poſts, con-

taining the neceſſary information concerning the neighbouring towns and villages, and of mile-ſtones to inform the traveler of the progreſs he has made, and of what remains unperformed of his journey, as alſo the puniſhments appointed for the deſtroyers of guide-poſts, banks, or other fences ſet up to guard the road, and for the deſtroyers of turnpikes or weighing engines, ſhew a laudable attention to one of the moſt important branches of national police. [7 *Geo. III, cc.* 40, 42.]

In order to avoid the inconvenience and delays, which aroſe from the revenue officers in America being often obliged to apply for inſtructions in doubtful points to the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms in London, the king was empowered to appoint commiſſioners of the cuſtoms to reſide in America, and perform the functions of their office independent of the commiſſioners at home. Boſton was fixed on to be the reſidence of the new commiſſioners, whoſe office was deſtined to be but of ſhort continuance. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 41.]

An act was paſſed enforcing and amending the ſeveral laws already exiſting againſt the importation of French cambrics and French lawns, to be uſed in Britain; and reſtricting the importation of them for re-exportation to the port of London only. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 43.]

Inſtead of the former duties upon policies of aſſurance (or inſurance), all policies upon ſhip or cargo, or both, for ſums not exceeding £1,000 were charged with a ſtamp duty of five ſhillings, and for all ſums above £1,000 with two ſuch ſtamps. But no additional riſk is permitted to be added to that which is mentioned in the original policy, by any writing not duly ſtamped. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 44.]

Among a great multitude of regulations for the imports and exports, manufactures, &c. of the iſland of Mann, there are a ſet of premiums appointed for the encouragement of the herring fiſhery and the linen manufacture in that iſland. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 45.]

Duties were laid upon glaſs, painter's colours, teas, paper, paſte-board, and paper hangings, exported from Great Britain to America, which were to be paid at landing in America. The revenue expected from theſe duties was deſtined for the ſupport of the civil governments in the colonies, and the remainder was to be paid into the exchequer, and to be diſpoſed of by parliament, towards the expenſe of defending the Britiſh colonies in America. By the ſame act the exporters of China earthen ware to America were deprived of the drawback they hitherto enjoyed. And at the ſame time, as an encouragement to the planters of coffee and cacao in the colonies, the whole duties payable on the importation of theſe articles were allowed to be drawn back on exportation. [7 *Geo. III c.* 46.]

As the continental and inſular colonies conſidered their intereſts as very different, if not quite oppoſite, this favour, whereby the later only could be benefited, could have no effect in ſoothing the ſpirits of the

former, who were at preſent very far from being in good humour, and were exaſperated by this law to a degree of reſentment and alienation from the mother country, nothing inferior to that which was excited by the ſtamp act, and which, after they were further imbittered by this act, were continually breaking out in acts of violence and outrage (the detail of which does not belong to this work), till at laſt they flamed out in thoſe open hoſtilities, which ſeparated the moſt of the American continental colonies from Great Britain.

The exportation of logwood free from duty was permitted: and *for the improvement of the revenue*, the duty upon ſuccus liquoritiæ imported, was reduced from £7 : 2 : 6, to £1 : 10 : 0, the hundredweight. A duty of two and a half per cent ad valorem, according to the rate fixed in the twelfth year of Charles II, was laid on the exportation from Great Britain of rice, imported free of duty from the Britiſh American colonies. The uſe of foreign lace and needle-work was utterly prohibited, and they were directed to be locked up in the king's warehouſes, and delivered thence for exportation only. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 47]

The government now began to interfere in the affairs of the Eaſt-India company, which hitherto had been left to their own direction. They had acquired a vaſt territorial revenue; and it became a queſtion, whether, as ſubjects of Great Britain, they could be ſovereigns in India; an *imperium in imperio* being univerſally acknowleged to be a ſoleciſm in politics. It was aſſerted, that all conqueſts made by Britiſh ſubjects, though they ſhould be made entirely at their own expenſe and riſk, muſt belong to the crown, and that, in this caſe, great expenſe had been incurred by the nation, which at any rate muſt be entitled to a very large participation of the revenues. On the other hand it was urged, that no ſuch reſervation to the crown had been made, when the charters were granted and confirmed by parliament, for obtaining every one of which the company had given a valuable conſideration, and conſequently were entitled to every advantage that might accrue from it. As to the plea of expenſe, that of the nation had been very trifling, if compared to that of the company, and could at beſt only conſtitute a debt: and ſuch an infringement of property and public faith would be a moſt fatal precedent, and would be deſtructive of all confidence in government.

In November 1766 parliament had appointed a committee to enquire into the ſituation of the company's affairs, their charters, their tranſactions and treaties with the princes of India, the ſtate of their revenues ariſing from Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, and even their correſpondence with their ſervants in India, and alſo all expenſes incurred by government on the company's account, whether in the naval, military, or any other department; all which were ordered to be printed, and it was with difficulty that the company got their private correſpondence with

their ſervants in India exempted from the publicity, to which all their other affairs were ſoon after expoſed.

At a meeting of the company on the 6th of May, their half year's dividend, payable at Chriſtmas next, was declared to be *ſix and a quarter per cent.* The ſtockjobbers immediately laid hold of ſo very large an advance *, and, trumpeting forth with open mouth the advantages obtained in India by Lord Clive, boldly predicted, that the dividends would ſoon riſe to fifty per cent, and the price of ſtock to 900 or 1,000. They actually carried it up to 263 at this time, and the nation was in danger of a renewal of the madneſs of the South-ſea year.

But theſe towering hopes were inſtantly daſhed to the ground by parliament, who, apparently apprehenſive of ſtockjobbing manœuvres for carrying queſtions in the meetings of the company, made a law againſt the practice of ſplitting votes, for the purpoſe of making temporary proprietors to give votes in the general courts of any of the public companies, and declared, that no proprietor ſhould be entitled to vote after the 1ſt of Auguſt 1767, who had not held his or her ſtock ſix months, or acquired it by legacy, by marriage, or by the cuſtom of the city of London. And to prevent the dangerous conſequences of ſudden and unwarrantable alterations in the rates of the dividends, it was enacted, that dividends ſhould be only declared at a half-yearly or quarterly general court, at leaſt five months after the declaration of the preceding dividend; that the declaration ſhould be only for one dividend; and that every propoſition for increaſing the rate of a dividend ſhould be decided by ballot three entire days, at the leaſt, after the breaking up of the general court wherein the propoſal was made. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 48.]

This act, which was generally binding upon all the public companies, was immediately followed by a particular law for regulating the dividends of the Eaſt-India company, in order to ſecure as well 'the permanent intereſt of the ſaid company, as the ſtate of credit both private and public, from the miſchiefs, which muſt enſue from an improper and improvident increaſe of the dividends of the ſaid company, which cannot be effectually done without the interpoſition of parliament.' It was therefor enacted, that after the 24th of June 1767 no dividend ſhould be made but by ballot in a general meeting of the company, ſummoned expreſsly for that purpoſe by at leaſt ſeven days' previous notice fixed on the exchange of London, and that *no dividend above ten per cent per annum* ſhould be made before the next ſeſſion of parliament. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 49.]

By this act the late declaration of the increaſe of dividend was reſ-

* From the year 1755 to 1766 the dividend was only ſix per cent for the year.

cinded; and thoſe, who had ſpeculated largely in India ſtock upon the hopes of a further increaſe, were grievouſly diſappointed.

In ſupport of the ſtrong meaſure of reducing the dividend, it was argued, that the company ought to diſcharge all their debts, before they pretended to enlarge their dividends, and that the expectation of large dividends would introduce a boundleſs and ruinous ſpirit of gambling. On the other hand it was obſerved, that no commercial company can ever be entirely free from debt, but that the company poſſeſſed abundant funds for the diſcharge of every demand; of which their creditors were ſo well aſſured, that inſtead of expreſſing any anxiety for their payment, as parliament was doing for them, they ſhowed, by the premium they demanded for parting with the company's bonds, that at leaſt a majority of them were rather unwilling to receive payment: and finally, that to expreſs a doubt of the company's ability to pay their debts, and at the ſame time to demand from them an annual payment, much larger than the whole of their dividends, was at leaſt very inconſiſtent. The bill was not carried through parliament without very keen oppoſition in both houſes, many members inſiſting that the objections to the dividend of 12½ per cent per annum, which was legally voted by the proper court, were entirely without foundation, and exceedingly injurious to thoſe who had occaſion to ſell ſtock; and the meaſure was moreover highly exceptionable, as being an *ex poſt facto* law, which in its conſequences would be very injurious to private property, and alarming to public credit.

The company, when they found themſelves in the hands of a power, with whom they could not deal on the equal terms of accepting, or rejecting, a propoſal, and with whom they could far leſs contend, had preſented to parliament a petition, containing two propoſitions, one of which, they hoped, would be accepted.

By the firſt, the company requeſted government to grant them ſome advantages reſpecting the inland duties on their teas, and a drawback on the exportation of them to Ireland and the colonies, and ſome others reſpecting raw ſilks, calicoes, muſlins, the recruiting ſervice, and military ſtores. And they propoſed in return, that, after deducting £400,000 a-year, in lieu of the company's former commercial profits, the net produce of the remaining revenues and trade, after deducting all charges, ſhould be equally divided between the government and the company, provided the company's property in the new acquiſitions continued for three years.

By the ſecond, the company offered, upon the ſame terms, to pay to government for three years, the ſpecific ſum of £400,000 a-year in half-yearly payments, and to indemnify the revenue for any loſs that might proceed from the advantages they required in the tea trade, if the advanced conſumption of it, taken on an average of five years, ſhould not

produce duties equal in amount to the former ones. And they entreated parliament to conſider the many dangers to which their property had been expoſed, and their prodigious heavy expenſes in India, which, notwithſtanding they had loſt very few ſhips at ſea, had for many years kept their dividends very low, while the public were in the uninterrupted poſſeſſion of an annual revenue ariſing from their trade, fully equal to a third part of their whole capital.

The parliament did not accept either of the propoſitions in the terms offered, but dictated their own terms in two acts, which were immediately paſſed.

By the firſt, the inland duty of one ſhilling a pound was taken off thoſe kinds of tea called *black teas*, cleared out of the Eaſt-India company's warehouſes for conſumption in Great Britain, for five years after the 5th of July 1767; and the teas exported in the original packages to Ireland and the Britiſh-American colonies were entitled to draw back the whole duties. This regulation being calculated to increaſe the conſumption of teas legally imported, and to enlarge the Eaſt-India company's ſales, they were bound, in caſe the revenue ariſing from teas during theſe five years ſhould fall ſhort of its amount during the five preceding years, to make good the deficiency. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 56.]

By the ſecond, the Eaſt-India company, in conſideration of their territorial acquiſitions, became bound to pay to the public £400,000 a year for two years, commencing from the 1ſt of February 1767. It was, however, provided, that, if the company ſhould be deprived of their territories, or any part of them, during that period, a proportional abatement of the payment ſhould take place. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 57.]

The other acts of this ſeſſion, which concerned commerce, were the following.

'Whereas it is of the utmoſt importance to the trade and commerce 'of theſe kingdoms, that all letters, packets, bank-notes, bills of ex-'change, and other things, may be ſent and conveyed with the greateſt 'ſafety and ſecurity,' any perſon in the ſervice of the poſt-office embezzling or deſtroying any letter containing any valuable paper, or picking out ſuch valuable paper, is deemed guilty of felony, and condemned to ſuffer death without benefit of clergy. And the robbery of the mail, or of a poſt-office, is alſo made felony. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 50.]

An act was paſſed for improving the navigation of the river Lea, and extending it to the town of Hartford. The navigation of it was declared to be free to all the king's ſubjects, on paying the appointed rates and duties; and manure carried upon the river was wholely exempted from payment. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 51.]

The utility of inland navigation being dayly more and more underſtood, ſeveral other acts were paſſed for improving the channels of

rivers; for they ſtill adhered ſo much to the old ideas, as to think a river, that could be made navigable, preferable to a canal.

An act was paſſed for building a pier at, and otherwiſe improving the harbour of, St. Ives in Cornwall, which, if the acceſs to it were eaſy, would afford great protection to ſhips on that coaſt. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 52.]

For the eſtabliſhment of a fund of £15,000 a-year, to encourage the cultivation and dreſſing of hemp and flax, additional duties were laid upon foreign canvaſs and lawns, to be repaid on ſuch as ſhould be exported. [7 *Geo. III, c.* 58.]

Mr. Buckland, Britiſh conſul at Nice, who had formerly recommended a direct intercourſe between the dominions of Piedmont and Britain, this ſummer ſent home notice, that the trade, begun in conſequence of his advice, was now conſiderably increaſed; and that in the years 1765 and 1766 ſix rich cargoes of ſilk, oil, &c. had arrived at London, and two at Exeter, from Nice and Villa-Franca: and in the ſame two years ten valuable cargoes from London, ſix from other ports in England, and two from Britiſh America, had arrived at thoſe ports.

Mr. Fraſer, Britiſh conſul at Tripoli, ſent home a very full and circumſtantial 'General ſtate of the commerce of Tripoli' by ſea with the nations bordering on the Mediterranean, and by land with the natives of the interior parts of Africa, of which the following is a ſummary.

Tripoli exports to	Zechins*.	Tripoli imports from	Zechins.
Leghorn, goods to the value of	14,930	*Leghorn*, goods to the value of	21,459
Venice,	6,025	*Venice*,	10,795
Conſtantinople, *Smyrna*, *Alexandria*, *Candia*, and the other iſlands and ports of the *Levant*, chiefly in negro ſlaves,	50,485	*Conſtantinople*, *Smyrna*, *&c.*	46,390
Tunis,	000	*Tunis*,	2,300
Malta,	1,815	*Malta*,	1,480
Tripoli ſends annually by the inland caravans to		Tripoli receives from	
Fezzan, chiefly in foreign goods,	26,475	*Fezzan*, negro ſlaves, ſena, dates, oſtrich feathers, gum-arabic, &c. to the value of	37,380
The traders remain four or five months at Fezzan, where they meet with the caravans from Bornou, Zanfara, Agdes, which is			

* The zechin at Tripoli is worth 8/6 ſterling nearest.

	Zechins.		Zechins.
in the heart of Africa, and Tombuctoo *.			
Gadamis †, the ſame goods,	7,610	*Gadamis*, negroes, ſena, gold-duſt, and oſtrich feathers,	9,725

The produce of the provinces of Barca, (the antient Cyrenaica) ſubject to Tripoli, is annually worth - - 20,920

The exceſs of the imports in the inland caravan trade is not a balance againſt Tripoli, but the groſs profit made by the trade.

The general balance in trade againſt Tripoli, is paid by the ſale of ſlaves taken in their piracies, and the money ſpent among them by the agents and conſuls of the ſeveral European powers with whom they are at peace.

Tripoli has for ſome centuries been the mart in the Mediterranean for black ſlaves, who are annually exported thence to Conſtantinople, and a few other ports in the Turkiſh dominions. Chriſtians being prohibited from poſſeſſing ſlaves of the Mohamedan religion, this trade is wholely in the hands of Mooriſh merchants, and therefor ſo little known to Europeans.

Mr. Fraſer obſerved, that though there were no direct trade between Great Britain and Tripoli, a conſiderable part of the goods imported into it was of Britiſh manufacture.

Mr. Fraſer anticipated the zeal of the preſent day for diſcoveries in the interior parts of Africa, with which, under prudent direction, a more extenſive, and more mutually-beneficial commerce may ſome day be carried on, than has ever yet been driven upon its coaſts: and he pointed out the moſt proper method of proſecuting the diſcovery, and profiting by it.

It is worthy of remark, that crimſon leather, which forms a conſiderable part of the exports from Tripoli, was noted as a manufacture of the ſame country before the age of Herodotus.

The Britiſh conſul-general, and merchants, in the kingdom of Naples, again complained of ſeveral oppreſſive innovations upon the privileges formerly enjoyed by the Britiſh traders in that country, and particularly of the ſuppreſſion of the vice-conſuls in the outports, and a ſeizure made by the government of an Engliſh ſhip ſtranded at Cuma.

So very numerous were the people in the Britiſh-American colonies, that ſo long ago as the year 1755 Samuel Hazard of Philadelphia had applied to the king for leave to eſtabliſh a new colony of ſeveral thou-

* Mourzouc, the capital of Fezzan, and the ſcene of this traffic, is about 400 miles ſouth-ſouth-eaſt from Tripoli. Agdes (or rather Agades, called Agodoſt by the geographer Edriſſi) is about 750 miles ſouth from Tripoli, from which Zamfara and Bornou extend to the eaſtward, and Tombuctoo to the weſtward, ſo that the trade carried on at Fezzan accomodates an extent of country meaſuring at leaſt 1,500 miles from eaſt to weſt, in the very heart of Africa.

† Called alſo Ghedemes and Godemſhee, about 180 miles ſouth-eaſt from Tripoli.

ſand people on the Ohio. This year the application was renewed by General Phineas Lyman, an officer on the American eſtabliſhment, in behalf of himſelf and the reſt of the officers and ſoldiers of the ſeveral corps of American provincial troops diſbanded at the late peace; and alſo in behalf of 4,320 of the ſubſcribers to Hazard's intended colony. Their propoſal was to ſettle a tract of country extending 100 miles on each ſide of the Ohio, and 300 miles eaſt from the Miſſiſſippi, to be purchaſed with the free good will of the Illinois, the Indian proprietors.

The new provinces, being in a great meaſure ſettled by people trained up in their early life to agriculture, and afterwards habituated to a military life, would be an excellent military barrier, as well as a moſt productive agricultural terrritory, the country being of ſo rich a ſoil, that the French uſed to call it *the terreſtrial paradiſe*.

The rich productions of this country, conſiſting of corn, hemp, flax, ſilk, indigo, madder, wines, &c. being carried down the Miſſiſſippi, would plentifully ſupply the province of Weſt-Florida, the merchants of which muſt enjoy the benefit of ſhipping the produce, and ſupplying the propoſed colony with vaſt quantities of Britiſh goods, the veſſels adapted to the navigation of the river being incapable of croſſing the Ocean. It was alleged, that theſe advantages would ſoon make Weſt-Florida an opulent and flouriſhing province, of great advantage to the mother country, upon which it had hitherto been a heavy burthen; and that the Indians, by good treatment and fair trading, would be glad of the near neighbourhood of the white people.

What may, perhaps, appear ſingular, the advocate for theſe new colonies, among other advantages to be derived from them, inſiſted, that ſuch an eſtabliſhment would operate as a check upon the attempts of the inhabitants of the old colonies to become independent of Great Britain, by draining them of their redundant population *.

* 'The period will doubtleſs come, when 'North-America will no longer acknowlege 'a dependence on any part of Europe. But 'that period ſeems to be ſo remote, as not to 'be at preſent an object of rational policy or 'human prevention, [and] it will be made ſtill 'more remote by opening new ſcenes of agricul-'ture, and widening the ſpace which the coloniſts 'muſt firſt completely occupy.' [*Concluſion of General Lyman's Memorial.*]

In the preſent ſtate of affairs, it may be at leaſt amuſing, if not inſtructive, to ſee the opinion of another perſon acquainted with American affairs, who, upon this occaſion, wrote a paper, never 'printed, entitled, *Some thoughts upon Indian affairs*,' &c.

He alſo recommends colonizing the interior parts of America, but prefers the country of the Natches, rather down the Miſſiſſippi, for the ſeat of the new colony, which the French writers have deſcribed as a healthy, fertile, and pleaſant, country, producing wine, tobacco of a ſuperior quality, rice, olives, &c. 'A colony there would not, 'like that on the barren coaſt of Nova-Scotia, be 'nine or ten years before it could draw any ſub-'ſiſtence from the ground, and require in that 'time near a million ſterling from the mother 'country.'

He elſewhere ſays, 'It would be laviſhing money to no purpoſe to grant annual ſupplies 'merely for the ſubſiſtence of the colony, which 'only enables new ſettlers to build fine houſes, 'and live idly at the expenſe of the mother country. But to grant large premiums for the productions of the earth would turn the minds of 'the ſettlers directly to induſtry, and the cultivation of produce ſuited to the climate, which 'would enable the colony in a few years to ſend 'large returns home to this iſland.' He adviſes, that the premiums be paid at an early ſtage of the cultivation

Though this propoſal for the eſtabliſhment of three new governments in the interior part of America was approved of by Sir William Johnſon, the venerable ſuperintendant of Indian affairs in the northern diſtricts, every argument in favour of it was completely repelled by the lords of trade and plantations, in a repreſentation made to the king upon the buſineſs, in the beginning of the enſuing year.

While this ſcheme was in agitation for depriving the Indians of their country, ſome regulations were made to prevent white people from hunting upon their grounds, or from trading clandeſtinely with the Indians of the ſouthern diſtrict. The quantity of ſpiritous liquors to be carried into the Indian country was regulated, whereby, it was hoped, a ſtop might be put to the frequent murders, and other enormities, occaſioned by the immoderate uſe of thoſe dangerous liquors.

October 28th—At a town meeting held at Boſton in New-England, ſeveral reſolutions were *unanimouſly* voted, which ſhowed a determination rather to widen, than to heal, the breach with the mother country, and to direct their attacks againſt her commerce, which they conſidered as her moſt vulnerable part, as well as that which they could diſtreſs without the infringement of any law.

In the preamble, they ſay, 'Whereas the exceſſive uſe of foreign ſuperfluities is the chief cauſe of the preſent diſtreſſed ſtate of this town, as it is thereby drained of its money; which misfortune is likely to be increaſed, by means of the late additional burthens and impoſitions on the trade of the province, which threaten the country with poverty

cultivation, e. g. £20 per acre for every vine-yard not exceeding five acres, becauſe new ſettlers are ſeldom able to wait for diſtant returns for their induſtry, without ruinous conſequences; and this, he contends, would be the cheapeſt method of ſupporting an infant colony. 'Whoever attentively conſiders the nature of our ſettlements in the continent of America, will ſoon be convinced, that it is for the intereſt of this nation to check population in the northern colonies, and encourage it in the ſouthern.' * * * * 'Our territories in North America are nearly as large as all Europe; conſequently, if we diffuſe the coloniſts widely all-over them, eſpecially in the ſouthern climates, we will not need to be apprehenſive of their increaſing numbers for ages to come, provided means be taken to keep up the population of this iſland in a due proportion. But to ſuffer towns to multiply in the northern colonies, and to encourage the forming of a conſiderable naval force there, is to render thoſe colonies rather the *rivals*, than the *auxiliaries*, to their mother country; and it may be queſtioned, whether they do not rival it already in ſome branches of navigation. *If proper regulations were eſtabliſhed, a more uſeful, and perhaps as lucrative, a fiſhery might be found on the coaſts of this iſland, as on thoſe of America. There appears ſomething ſingular in leaving a Britiſh fiſhery to the Dutch, and in going to ſeek another a thouſand leagues off**. If the fiſhery of this nation be encouraged upon the coaſts of North-America, that will inſenſibly draw the chief fiſhers to reſide there likewiſe. But prudence would require to keep thoſe as much as poſſible at home, as one of the readieſt reſources of our naval ſtrength, which is the right hand of our power, and cannot be too carefully, and too watchfully, cheriſhed.' He concludes, by obſerving, that 'To encourage population in the ſouthern colonies, is directly promoting the intereſt of this iſland, and is the ſpeedieſt method of ſtrengthening our ſettlements on the continent of America: for, in the ſouth, where the ſoil and climate afford two or three rich harveſts annually, a colony will advance more in ten years, than in an hundred years in the north, where nature lies dead half the year.'

* 'I laught to ſee the zeal that miniſtry had about the fiſhing of Newfoundland (I think), while no care was taken againſt the Dutch fiſhing juſt at our doors.' [*Swift.*]

'and ruin' They therefor reſolved immediately to leſſen the uſe of all ſuperfluities imported from abroad, viz. 'loaf-ſugar, cordage, anchors, 'coaches, chaiſes, and carriages of all ſorts, horſe-furniture, men's 'and women's hats, men's and women's apparel ready made, houſe-'hold furniture, gloves, men's and women's ſhoes, ſole-leather, ſheath-'ing and deck nails, gold and ſilver and thread lace of all ſorts, gold 'and ſilver buttons, wrought plate of all ſorts, diamonds, ſtone and 'paſte ware, ſnuff, muſtard, clocks and watches, ſilverſmith's and jewel-'ler's ware, broad cloths that coſt above 10/ per yard, muffs, furs, and 'tippets, and all ſorts of millinery ware, ſtarch, women's and children's 'ſtays, fire-engines, china ware, ſilk and cotton velvets, gauze, pewterer's 'hollow ware, linſeed-oil, glue, lawns, cambrics, ſilks of all kinds for 'garments, malt liquors, and cheeſe *.' And they reſolved totally to abſtain from them after the 1ſt of December next.

They alſo reſolved by all prudent ways and means to encourage the manufactures of Britiſh America, and more eſpecially thoſe of their own province: and they particularly recommended to the public attention and patronage the manufactures of glaſs and paper.

They moreover reſolved to retrench all ſuperfluous expenſe of new clothes, &c. at funerals, and on ſuch occaſions to uſe no gloves but of American manufacture.

The French prohibited all Britiſh veſſels from entering the ports of Guadaloupe and Martinique: and two Britiſh-American ſchooners were actually ſeized at Martinique, though the inhabitants were at the very time in great diſtreſs for want of beef, pork, flour, &c. with which they were loaded.

The Spaniards alſo ſhowed a hoſtile diſpoſition to our commerce by contracting the time allowed for Britiſh veſſels to remain at Monte Chriſti to twenty-four hours, and preventing the logwood cutters from working at Spiritu Santo.

Captain Holland, ſurveyor-general of the northern diſtrict of America, tranſmitted home an account of the former and preſent ſtate of the iſland of Cape Breton. It appears that, when the French were in poſſeſſion of this iſland, they employed in the fiſhery on various parts of the coaſt

	Quintals of fiſh.
300 decked ſchooners and ſloops, carrying 2,400 men, and taking, on an average, 700 quintals of fiſh, -	210,000
1,459 ſhalops, carrying 8,754 men, and taking, on an average, 300 quintals, - - -	437,700
	647,700
the value of which on the iſland at 10/ was -	£323,850

* As ſeveral articles in this liſt, e. g. cordage, anchors, ſhoes, leather, nails, &c. are evidently not ſuperfluities, the reaſon of inſerting them muſt have been, that ſuch articles were manufactured in America, which, if not equally good with thoſe of Britiſh fabric, they determined to content themſelves with.

beſides the value of the fiſh oil, train oil, whale-bone, mackerels, and herrings, got on this coaſt, all of which were conſiderable. It is moreover a great object to a maritime power to have ſo many ſeamen bred up in an employment, which ſo eminently qualifies them for encountering the hardſhips of a ſeafaring life.

He ſays, that there were only 11 decked veſſels, and 68 ſhalops, employed in the fiſhery, when he made his ſurvey: but the coaſt, eſtimating it by the extent of beach fit for curing the fiſh, might afford employment for 820 decked veſſels, and 2250 ſhalops, which would require above 20,000 men to man them; and the fiſh caught by them, together with the oil made from thoſe fiſh, would find employment for 653 ſizeable veſſels to carry them to markets.

Beſides the important cod fiſhery, Cape Breton is excellently ſituated for carrying on a fiſhery for whales, which abound near its ſhores, and for ſalmon, mackerels, herrings, &c.

The inland part of the country abounds with beavers and other animals with valuable furs. It alſo produces plaſter of the beſt ſort, marble, lime-ſtone, free-ſtone for building, and timber for building; alſo coals, of which between two and three thouſand chaldrons were dug this year by a company, who had contracted to pay government 2000 dollars for permiſſion to work them.

Commodore Palliſer, governor of Newfoundland, in his report upon the fiſhery this year, obſerved, that the number of veſſels employed therein had annually increaſed of late, and the number of men returning to Britain and Ireland had alſo been fully double of what it ever was for ſixty years paſt, though ſtill not equal in proportion to the number of men returning annually to France from the limited fiſhery allowed to that country. He reflected ſeverely on the avaritious and cruel cuſtom, long practiſed by the commanders of fiſhing ſhips, of leaving many of their fiſhermen on the deſolate coaſt of Newfoundland when the fiſhing ſeaſon is over, whereby their families are left deſtitute at home, and themſelves forced into a life of idleneſs and rapine, and obliged to ſell themſelves to the colonies, or piratically run off with veſſels, which they carry to the continent of America. By theſe nefarious practices the Newfoundland fiſhery, which is ſuppoſed to be one of the moſt valuable nurſeries of ſeamen for the navy, has long been an annual drain, which has carried off thouſands of the ſtouteſt and moſt valuable ſeamen to the *rival* (rather than *ſubject*) fiſhing colonies in America *.

His accounts of the fiſhery on the coaſt of Labrador, which he had viſited this ſeaſon, ſtate, that twenty-ſeven Britiſh fiſhing veſſels were there this year; and that thoſe, who formerly objected to the eſtabliſh-

* In a ſtatement of the number of Britiſh ſhips and men, employed at Newfoundland during the laſt four years, he eſtimates the men run to America in 1764 at 1,500, in 1765 at 1,000, and in 1766 and 1767 at 200 each year.

ment of a ſhip fiſhery there, have now addreſſed him to ſupport it, which he has done agreeable to their wiſhes, and has alſo confirmed ſome regulations, agreed upon among the whalers, reſpecting the diviſion of whales killed by the boats of different ſhips. He adds, that the crews of the veſſels from the colonies, who had been accuſtomed to keep the coaſt in a ſtate of warfare, to ſet the woods on fire, and to do all in their power to exclude and ruin the fiſhers from Great Britain, were not ſo licentious and inſolent this ſeaſon as they uſed to be; and all were now convinced of the neceſſity of ſubmitting to order and government.

State of the fiſhery in the ſeaſon 1767.

	veſſels.	tunnage.	ſeamen.	paſſengers.	quintals of fiſh cured.	tuns of train oil.
Britiſh fiſhing veſſels,	258	23,419	3,946	7,070	208,570	941
Britiſh ſack veſſels,	92	10,532	888			
American veſſels,	115	6,397	680		unknown	unknown
Bye boats, -	372		2,188		79,590	431
Boats of the inhabitants,	1,151				265,150	1,240

Of the 258 Britiſh fiſhing veſſels, 27 fiſhed on the coaſt of Labrador.

The 115 American veſſels brought cargoes of rum, melaſſes, bread, flour, &c. the proceeds of which, with the prices of ſome of the veſſels ſold, may be rated at £100,000, paid moſtly in bills of exchange, and a very ſmall part of it with refuſe fiſh.

The American coloniſts alſo employed about 300 veſſels, eſtimated at 60 tuns and 13 men each, in the whale fiſhery about the coaſts of Newfoundland, Labrador, and the Gulf of St. Laurence. In the gulf they killed 100 of the beſt whales in about ſix weeks; and their ſucceſs in the other ſtations was alſo conſiderable. They alſo employed about 300 veſſels, of about 60 tuns and 10 men each, on the banks of Newfoundland and Labrador; and each veſſel may be ſuppoſed to take 800 quintals, which they carried to the ports of America, whence they came.

There were carried to foreign markets 533,620 quintals of fiſh (*i. e.* cod) the value of which was from 9*s* to 13*s*, or in barter 15*s* per quintal. The train oil was worth £14 or £15 per ton.

There were ſent off 1,006 tierces of ſalmon, valued about 45*s* each.

The value of ſeal oil made laſt winter in Newfoundland was £3,895.
and in Labrador 4,937.

1,200 ſea cows were taken at Madelaine.

Three tuns of whale-bone purchaſed from the Indians, together with furs taken by the inhabitans to the value of £2,041, complete the proceeds of this government, carried in Britiſh veſſels, for the year 1767.

In October the governor and company of the bank of England raiſed the dividends upon their capital ſtock from *five* to *five and a half* per cent.

December—The ſeveral acts prohibiting the exportation, and encouraging the importation, of corn of all kinds were continued for a limited time. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 1, 2, 3.]

During the receſs of parliament ſeveral orders of the ſame purport had been iſſued.

The ſociety of arts and ſciences this year honoured Mr. Doſſie with a gold medal for his written communication of the method of making pot-aſh and barilla in America. They alſo gave Mr. Philips a premium of £100 for diſcovering his improved method of dying leather red and yellow, which was found ſuperior to what is imported from Morocco. They moreover preſented another gold medal to Mr. Dingley for erecting at Limehouſe a ſaw-mill to be worked by the wind, with an improved ſet of machinery for ſawing timber with exactneſs and expedition. A committee of the ſociety examined Mr. Pinchbeck's improvement of the wheel crane, which prevents the fatal accidents, to which it had formerly been liable.

The following authentic ſtatement of the commerce of Peterſburg, tranſmitted by the Britiſh conſul, ſhows how greatly the Britiſh trade in Ruſſia was improved in the courſe of this year. In the year 1767 there ſailed from that port 200 Britiſh veſſels, whereof 77 were for London, 21 for Hull, 14 for Briſtol, and 41 for the other ports of England; 9 for Leith, and 16 for the other ports of Scotland; 7 for Dublin, and 4 for other ports in Ireland; 1 for America; and 10 for Liſbon and the Mediterranean. There ſailed 202 veſſels of other nations, of which 44 were for Amſterdam.

This year 74 veſſels were loaded at Archangel, of which 40 were for Amſterdam, 15 for Hamburgh, only 7 for London, and none for any other Britiſh port. Hence it appears, that the Engliſh trade with Ruſſia, originally eſtabliſhed at Archangel, has almoſt entirely left that port, and fixed at Peterſburg.

According to a report from the Britiſh reſident at Hamburgh, 254 veſſels arrived in that city from Britiſh ports in the year 1766, whereof 167 were Britiſh; and in 1767 there arrived 224 from Britiſh ports, whereof 186 were Britiſh. The decreaſe of 30 ſhips, he ſays, is owing to the prohibition of exporting proviſions, but, he adds, that the trade was in every other reſpect as briſk as before. There was alſo this year a decreaſe of 34 ſhips in the number of arrivals from France, but, the veſſels being larger, the tunnage, or real quantity of ſhipping, is ſuppoſed to be as great now as before.

It appeared by the cuſtom-houſe books, that above a million of money was paid for the corn imported in the courſe of this year.

There belonged this year to all the ports
of England 7,339 veſſels of the reputed burthen of 556,905 tuns,
and of Scotland 1,546 - - - 84,481

Total 8,885 - - - - 641,386

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was
from the cuſtom-houſe in London - £2,350,850 5 0
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh - 5,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain £2,355,850 5 0

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year
27,219 pounds of gold, value - - £1,27180 15 6
and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1766 to Chriſtmas 1767, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£55,981 8 6		£558,062 5 8	£509 3 2
Canaries	6,001 19 4		38,289 4 5	
Denmark and Norway	75,308 3 10	£39,286 15 5	159,730 16 2	28,437 14 0
East country	207,085 7 6		150,754 1 10	
East India	1,981,173 0 1		1,272,654 13 3	
Flanders	208,322 13 1	78 19 2	545,919 14 3	21,662 7 0
France	174,089 17 4	3,207 6 10	232,031 7 4	193,606 9 7
Germany	680,963 9 10	12,697 5 9	1,506,293 10 11	40,959 2 8
Greenland	7,900 17 9			999 14 2
Holland	743,703 8 8	118,803 7 9	1,539,705 18 0	304,800 10 11
Iceland		18 16 3		12 10 0
Ireland	1,103,285 6 11	123,412 4 1	1,880,486 13 9	267,288 8 7
Mann		968 10 0		66 3 9
Italy	630,447 17 6	1,964 16 2	606,505 5 1	4,048 10 6
Madeira	6,211 0 0		34,253 5 6	684 7 10
Poland		29,236 3 6		1,450 4 2
Portugal	340,289 13 1	15,070 4 1	515,080 14 3	511 17 9
Prussia		25,895 14 11		145 19 0
Ruſſia	822,271 14 5	87,937 17 8	125,208 19 7	574 17 3
Spain	593,504 19 3	6,140 3 6	1,144,777 19 8	11,477 1 2
Gibraltar		1 3 4		1,472 11 0
Straits	11,375 19 11		69,772 5 4	
Sweden	175,515 7 6	21,248 18 8	44,336 16 5	7,887 14 3
Turkey	99,950 15 10		44,094 19 10	
Venice	57,457 12 7		31,984 3 0	
Sardinia		145 16 8		
Guernſey, &c.	36,698 13 5	2,706 16 8	59,863 8 10	3,327 12 1
Hudſon's Bay	9,942 10 11		4,981 18 8	
Newfoundland	48,950 18 6	1,356 17 2	53,550 10 7	1,084 19 8
St. John's Iſland	178 12 8		1,942 0 8	
Quebec	42,044 12 5	992 9	194,406 3 9	6,338 2 4
Nova-Scotia	753 4 5		25,094 10 1	
New-England	128,207 17 4	19,309 4 7	406,081 9 2	10,104 19 7
New-York	61,422 18 7	3,071 13 2	417,957 15 5	6,922 4 4

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Pennsylvania	£37,641 17 0	£5,021 17 0	£371,830 8 10	£11,291 7 8
Maryland	437,926 15 0	94,908 1 1	437,628 2 6	30,538 5 7
Virginia		237,156 7 2		184,506 3 2
North Carolina	395,027 10 1	12,247 0 1	244,093 6 0	14,883 18 2
South Carolina		5,095 12 1		9,694 4 11
Georgia	35,856 15 7		23,334 14 2	146 10 3
Florida	12,681 6 8		30,963 13 11	
Antigua	394,727 10 2	45,894 6 3	119,740 16 6	11,128 13 5
Anguilla	4,117 13 10			
Barbados	219,682 3 9	29,924 3 0	145,083 4 4	4,678 17 4
Bermuda	1,417 12 5		12,133 9 4	
Dominica	118,978 19 3		30,863 6 6	
Grenada	243,618 18 3	8,034 9 6	89,767 19 2	6,015 13 0
Jamaica	1,243,742 13 9	56,223 4 1	467,681 4 4	37,568 2 4
Montserrat	54,960 9 9	2,497 19 0	23,071 9 3	2,514 16 2
Nevis	60,690 14 7		11,875 18 8	450 13 10
New-Providence	4,487 3 0		14,986 0 3	
St. Christophers	276,013 9 9	12,641 2 1	106,162 8 7	17,811 12 0
St. Vincents	24,282 7 1		14,822 2 0	
Tortola	48,864 8 4		27,010 1 4	
St. Croix	10,584 1 2		882 7 2	
Martinique	572 0 8			
St. Lucie	629 13 9			
St Martins				725 19 11
St. Eustathius	2,740 7 8			
Spanish West Indies	15,611 8 3		7,995 4 5	
West Indies in general			763 13 0	
Imp. and exp. of Eng.	12,073,956 0 11		13,844,511 1 8	
Imp. and exp. of Scot.	1,023,197 5 5	1,023,197 5 5	1,245,490 2 7	1,245,490 2 7
Total, Great Britain	13,097,153 6 4		15,090,001 4 3	

1768, January 29th—The act for allowing the free importation of falted beef, pork, bacon, and butter, from Ireland, was continued; and the free importation of the fame articles from the Britifh American colonies was alfo allowed. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 9.]

February 23d—Though the affairs of the Eaft-India company were in the moft flourifhing condition, and they were even making additions to their territories in India, they were again prohibited by parliament from making any dividend above *ten* per cent per annum, notwithftanding a ftrenuous oppofition, not only from the company, but alfo from many members of both houfes of parliament *. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 11.]

It is a proof of the flourifhing ftate of the commercial city of Glafgow, that its magiftrates obtained from parliament powers to enable them to make feveral improvements in their ftreets, to build an exchange, and alfo a new bridge over the Clyde, and to levy a toll, or

* On the fame day that this act was paffed, a treaty was concluded between the company's fervants, in conjunction with the nabob of Arcot, and Aly Cawn nizam of the Deccan, againft Hyder Aly, a bold adventurer, who had lately acquired a conficerable fovereignty in the fouthern parts of India, and was the conftant enemy of the company.

pontage, upon it, till the expenſe of building it ſhould be defrayed. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 16.]

March 8th—An act was paſſed for paving, cleaning, and lighting, the ſtreets of London. The regulations for fixing the names of the ſtreets on their corners were renewed (if not enforced), and regulations were made for the ſtands of hackney coaches, watering the ſtreets where neceſſary, and for ſeveral other matters of police. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 21.]

The law, [4 *Geo. III, c.* 13] which prohibited the allowance of twelve per cent for leakage of wines, landed in Guernſey and Jerſey previous to their importation into Great Britain, was repealed, and the former allowance for leakage granted under certain conditions. By the ſame act the encouragement for the manufacture of Britiſh ſail-cloth was continued till 29th September 1774. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 23.]

The refuſe of ſalt-works, called grey, or ſcrow, ſalt, was permitted to be uſed as manure on paying four pence duty for each buſhel weighing 56 pounds.—Policies of inſurance to the amount of above £1,000 were charged with two ſtamps of five ſhillings each.—Rum and ſpirits, the produce of the Britiſh ſugar colonies, exported as merchandize from Britain, were entitled, after 25th March 1768, to draw back the cuſtom, and be exempted from the exciſe duties, though they ſhould be under the full proof. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

The bounties and encouragements held out to the whale fiſhery were continued till 25th December 1770. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

The commiſſioners of exciſe entered into an agreement with the corporation of London and the company of mercers for the purchaſe of Greſham college, in order to erect on the area of it a convenient building for accommodating the buſineſs of their office; which agreement was ratified by parliament. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 32.]

Several acts for improving roads, and ſeveral for making navigable canals, were paſſed in this ſeſſion. Of the later the moſt important was the canal for uniting the rivers Forth and Clyde. [8 *Geo. III, c.* 63.]

The advantages of a navigable communication between the Forth and the Clyde were perceived ſo long ago as the reign of Charles II. That prince, who (perhaps by means of his reſidence in the Netherlands) appears to have acquired a juſt idea of the importance of inland navigation *, propoſed to have a canal executed on ſuch a ſcale, that tranſports and ſmall ſhips of war might paſs upon it from ſea to ſea. But the expenſe, eſtimated at £500,000, was beyond the ability of the age.

* Charles II ordered ſurveys of the depth of the River Thames, which was found to have decreaſed four feet during his own reign, and alſo of the encroachments upon it. In his reign an act was paſſed for improving the navigation of the River Medway, for the ſake of carrying timber and naval ſtores to the dock-yards. [*Campbell's Political ſurvey, V.* i, *pp.* 175, 176.] In his reign alſo a bill was brought into parliament for uniting the Thames and the Severn by a canal from Lechlade on the former to the Avon, a navigable branch of the later. [*Phillips's Hiſt. of inland navigation, p.* 226, *ed.* 1795.]

About the time of the union the idea of a navigation acroſs the narroweſt part of the iſland was revived, as appears by ſome of the publications of that time; [*Campbell's Political ſurvey, V.* i, *p.* 227] and it was again dropped. In the year 1723 it was reſumed, and a ſurvey was made for the purpoſe of executing the canal. But ſtill it was, apparently, too early to engage in a work of ſuch magnitude; and it again lay forgotten till the year 1762, when it was taken up by the prime miniſter, Mr. Pitt, who propoſed, that it ſhould be executed by the public, and on ſuch a ſcale as to admit ſea veſſels of a moderate burthen: and Mr. Mackell was employed to make a ſurvey and eſtimate for a canal from the mouth of the Carron on the Forth to the mouth of Yocker burn on the Clyde. A ſecond ſurvey and report was made by Mr. Smeaton in the year 1764; and the execution of this great public work was now left to private individuals. But the large amount of Mr. Smeaton's eſtimate induced ſome of thoſe, who wiſhed for the navigation, to drop the grand idea of a canal navigable by ſea veſſels from ſea to ſea, and adopt the notion of a petty ditch with only four feet depth of water, and to extend no farther weſt than Glaſgow *.

The act now paſſed incorporated the proprietors of the propoſed canal, as uſual, and authorized a ſupplemental cut to Glaſgow. It alſo incorporated another ſet of proprietors for the purpoſe of executing an extenſion from the eaſt end of the canal to Borrowſtownneſs.

The work was immediately begun, and proſecuted with great ſpirit till the year 1775, when it had reached the neighbourhood of Glaſgow; and then, the funds being all exhauſted, a ſtop was put to it for ſome years. The inhabitants of Glaſgow, however, very ſoon availed themſelves of the proximity of the canal by making the ſupplemental cut to their city, whereby they immediately obtained a direct communication with the Forth and the German ocean; and the canal began to be uſeful to all the country adjacent to it, though in a degree far inferior to what it would be if completed. Yet even in this imperfect ſtate of it the lockage dues amounted to from £4,000 to £7,000 a year.

* While the various plans for the canal were under conſideration, Mr. J. Gray in 1768 publiſhed *Reflections on inland navigation*, wherein he propoſed to retain the natural courſes of the Bonnie and the Carron on the eaſt, and the Kelvin on the weſt, ſide of the country, thereby avoiding the ſeparation of private property, and alſo all expenſe of tunnels, ſluices, aqueducts, &c. as all ſmall ſtreams would be received into the canal. Inſtead of digging out a channel, he propoſed, as I may ſay, to build a river, (as ſome of the canals in Holland are conſtructed) by raiſing parallel embankments 80 or 100 feet aſunder (great part of which, he obſerves, is already done by nature) to contain the water of the rivers with a depth of twelve feet, and to make a kind of triple locks or dams, effected by two ſtrong piers of ſtone work at proper diſtances. As an improvement, he propoſed to ſet a mill [Why not two?] at each lock or dam, to be worked by the water falling from the upper part of it, and to give the cuſtody of the locks to the millers, who ſhould regulate the proper quantity of water, in order to prevent inundations, and guard againſt the formation of thick ice by varying the depth during froſt. He eſtimated that a navigable communication between the two ſeas of *fifteen* feet depth of water, and even *three hundred* feet in breadth, (except at the locks, where it ſhould be narrower) might be completed in this manner for £293,444, the ſum eſtimated by Mr. Smeaton for a canal of *twelve* feet deep, and *ſixty-nine* feet broad.

A further account of this great national undertaking will be given at the time of its completion.

The white people of the little colony of Montſerrat were in imminent danger of being exterminated by their negroes on St. Patrick's day (17th March). But the conſpiracy being providentially diſcovered by a woman, two ſhips of war and a ſmall detachment of ſoldiers arrived from the neighbouring iſlands in time to prevent the execution of it.

It being an object of great importance to maintain a good correſpondence with the American Indians, who ever ſince the peace of 1763 retained many of the prejudices inſtilled into them by the French againſt the Britiſh coloniſts, it was judged the moſt prudent meaſure to aſcertain by mutual conſent a boundary line, beyond which no Britiſh ſubject ſhould preſume to ſettle. This meaſure, calculated to remove the chief cauſe of the jealouſy of the Indians, was ſo far carried into execution, that the boundaries of the two Carolinas were actually ſurveyed and marked out agreeable to treaties made by Mr. Stewart, ſuperintendant of Indian affairs for the ſouthern diſtrict, with the Creeks, Cherokees, and Chactaws: and the Indians of the northern diſtrict cheerfully pointed out a line, which Sir William Johnſon, the ſuperintendant, agreed to, provided it ſhould be approved of by the king. In order to preſerve tranquillity among the Indians, it was thought moſt expedient to continue the two ſuperintendants, and to empower them to make the cuſtomary preſents to the Indians.

On a full conſideration of the circumſtances of the Indian trade it appeared, that the confinement of the trade to particular poſts, which was then the general principle of the trading ſyſtem, was expedient and effectual with reſpect to the ſouthern Indians, of doubtful policy with reſpect to thoſe adjacent to the provinces of Pennſylvania and New York, and evidently hurtful and dangerous with reſpect to the vaſt body of Indians on the weſt ſide of the province of Quebec, the inhabitants of which carry on a very extenſive commerce with them. Moreover the expenſe was ſo great, as, in a commercial view, to exceed conſiderably the object, to which it was ſubſervient.

General Melville, governor-general of the Ceded iſlands, made a large botanic garden at St. Vincents for the reception and cultivation of all plants valuable in commerce and medicine, which were ſcarce, or not at all to be found, in the Britiſh Weſt-India colonies; and by the great diligence of Doctor Young, ſurgeon of the military hoſpital and an excellent botaniſt, it was ſoon very conſiderably advanced*.

* In May 1772 Doctor Young had, among other valuable exotics, 140 healthy plants of the true cinnamon; for which, and his general botanic merit, the patriotic ſociety of arts and ſciences with great propriety preſented him with a gold medal. The garden ſtill continues to flouriſh under the care of Doctor Anderſon, another eminent botaniſt, and by the ſtill-continued good offices of General Melville, its original founder.

This public-ſpirited example, ſet by General Melville, has ſince been followed in ſeveral of the other Weſt-India iſlands.

In the beginning of April the coal trade was interrupted by combinations of the ſailors and keelmen at Shields and Sunderland, who demanded an increaſe of wages. About the ſame time the delivery of the coal ſhips in the Thames was put a ſtop to by the combinations and riots of the coal-heavers, who, thinking themſelves injured by a ſet of people called undertakers, who, they alleged, paid them their wages, not in money, but in liquor and goods of bad quality, would neither work themſelves for ſome time, nor allow the ſailors belonging to the ſhips to diſcharge them. In the courſe of theſe riots ſome lives were loſt.

Soon after this the ſailors in the Thames alſo made a demand for more wages, for which purpoſe they preſented a petition to parliament and another to the king; and for ſome time they allowed no veſſels to ſail from the river.

Sir Stephen Theodore Janſſen (who has already been deſervedly mentioned with honour) conferred an eſſential benefit on the public, and more eſpecially on the poorer claſſes of the community, by eſtabliſhing premiums to the mackerel fiſhers for coming up with their boats to market; in conſequence of which fine large mackerels were ſold for three halfpence each, which lowered the price of butcher meat one penny a pound.

A claim was ſet up by Daniel Coxe of New Jerſey and others, the deſcendants of Doctor Daniel Coxe, who in the year 1696 had purchaſed the titles of a moſt extenſive grant made by King Charles II to Sir Robert Heath of all the lands in America between the latitudes of 31° and 36° north, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, together with the iſlands of Veanis* and Bahama, and all other iſlands near thereto, and lying ſouthward of the continent †; which territory was called Carolana. The claimants requeſted either to be confirmed in the poſſeſſion of the territories, and exerciſe of the powers, granted to Sir Robert Heath, or to be paid a proper compenſation for ſurrendering their titles into the king's hands. When this affair came to be conſidered by the lords of trade and plantations, it was concluded, that the claimants, in conſideration of ſurrendering all pretenſions to their long-neglected grant, ſhould receive 40,000 acres of unoccupied land in the interior part of the province of New-York.

Mr. Fraſer, the conſul at Algier, tranſmitted a very circumſtantial account of the commerce of that place, ſimilar to what he gave laſt year of the trade of Tripoli, as follows.

* Perhaps Bimini, the iſland ſuppoſed by the Spaniards to contain the fountain of immortality.

† This deſcription, in the hands of a *powerful* argumentator, might be made to comprehend all the Weſt-India iſlands.

Algier exports to	Zechins.	Algier imports from	Zechins.
Alexandria, in caſh -	60,000	*Alexandria*, in rice, coffee, linen, and cotton goods,	60,000
Smyrna, negroes 3,000; blankets 1,500; bullion 5,500	10,000	*Smyrna*, cotton, cotton goods, drugs, iron, braſs, ſilk,	10,000
Leghorn, wool, oſtrich feathers, wax, hides, &c.	16,500	*Leghorn*, Britiſh woollens, - 8,500; Venetian cloths, cutlery, ſilks, linens, glaſs, ſpiceries, 26,000	20,950
The balance in bills or prize goods			
Marſeille, wool, 10,000; wax, hides, &c. 11,500	21,500	*Marſeille*, iron, - 10,000; ſugar, coffee, ſilks, woollens, paper, linens, ſpices, 30,000	40,000

There were no Britiſh merchants; and in the imports there were very few Britiſh goods. There were three French houſes, branches of houſes at Marſeille.

The conſul at Coruña reported, that ſince the laſt war no Britiſh merchants had ſettled there; and that the removal of the Engliſh packets from that place had thrown ſuch difficulties in the way of making remittances, that the neighbouring country was now moſtly ſupplied with French manufactures, to the great regret of the natives, who all prefer Engliſh goods. The Britiſh veſſels arriving in his department were only about 14 annually with cod from Newfoundland, 3 or 4 with ſalted proviſions from Ireland, and a few with corn, coals, &c. from other ports.

In a ſubſequent report he more particularly ſtates, that from 25th December 1767 to 24th June 1768 only 7 Britiſh veſſels from Newfoundland, London, Cork, and Virginia, had arrived in the provinces of Galicia and Aſturias, moſt of which had only landed ſmall parcels of goods there. During the ſame time 11 French and 5 Dutch veſſels delivered their full cargoes in the ſame diſtrict, the Dutch having increaſed ſince the packets to the Havana and Buenos Ayres were ſtationed at Coruña, while the Engliſh remained the ſame as before.

The Britiſh conſul and merchants at Cadiz complained of the hardſhips put upon them by ſeveral infringements of the treaties, and particularly by the *poſtura*, an order of the magiſtrates for fixing the prices of proviſions, whereby they apprehended the trade from Ireland and Newfoundland to that port muſt be ruined. They, and the conſul at St. Lucar alſo complained of a proclamation prohibiting the importation of all printed and painted cloths and handkerchiefs, the demand for which in the Spaniſh colonies uſed to be very conſiderable. They alſo complained of the exactions of the health-office, of the indignities

put upon the commanders of their ſhips, the partiality ſhewn to the French, and the arbitrary power of the governors and magiſtrates of Cadiz, who were ignorant of the treaties, and had not even any inſtructions to regard them.

The directors of the Eaſt-India company, being determined to prevent the ſale of the command of their ſhips, reſolved that after 25th March 1769 all their commanders ſhould be choſen by ballot out of perſons, who have already commanded ſhips, or at leaſt performed one voyage to India as chief or ſecond mate in their ſervice. They alſo reſolved, that after the ſame time no ſhips ſhould be built for their ſevice without leave obtained from the court of directors.

In all the meaſures taken in oppoſition to government in America the people of Boſton conſtantly took the lead. Their reſolutions of laſt October were followed in February by an official circular letter from the aſſembly of Maſſachuſets bay to all the other aſſemblies in Britiſh America, propoſing a ſtrict union of all the colonies in oppoſing by all legal means the operation of the late acts of parliament, and recommending harmony in their applications to government for the repeal of them. The minds of the people of Boſton were much exaſperated by the ſeizure of a ſloop, belonging to one of the repreſentatives of that city, by the officers of the cuſtoms, who, to eſcape from the outrages of the people, were obliged to take ſhelter onboard a ſhip of war, from which they removed to Caſtle William, ſituated on a ſmall iſland in the harbour; and there they eſtabliſhed the cuſtom-houſe. The diſſolution of the aſſembly by the governor added fuel to the flame, and paved the way for a convention of repreſentatives, elected by the people, and aſſembled without any authority from government, who, however, profeſſing themſelves to be only a meeting of private perſons, earneſtly requeſted the governor to call together a conſtitutional aſſembly. The governor refuſed to receive their meſſage, and warned them to diſperſe; but they, nevertheleſs, continued their meetings for ſeveral days. The day of their breaking up was diſtinguiſhed by the unwelcome arrival of a fleet of ſhips of war from Halifax, with two regiments of ſoldiers and a detachment of artillery, who were quartered in Boſton. In a ſhort time after two more regiments arrived from Ireland, as alſo General Gage, who was appointed commander in chief of the forces.

Previous to the meeting of the convention the merchants and traders of Boſton had entered into a new reſolution againſt importing any Britiſh goods from 1ſt January 1769 to 1ſt January 1770, except ſalt, coals, fiſh hooks and lines, hemp and duck, bar lead and ſhot, wool cards and card wire. And they more eſpecially reſolved not to import any tea, paper, glaſs, or colours, till the duties on them ſhould be repealed. A ſimilar agreement was entered into by the traders of New-York.

Throughout the month of October the following premiums were given to ſuch boats as ſhould deliver at Billingſgate in one tide, not leſs

than three laſts of herrings, caught within forty-eight hours, at the rate of £12 : 10 : 0 per laſt, or about a farthing a piece, viz. the firſt boat £37 : 10 : 0; the ſecond £30; and the third £22 : 10 : 0.

The king by additional inſtrnctious (dated 6th October 1768) to General Melville, governor-general of the ceded iſlands, confirmed the conſtitutions he had drawn up for the ſeveral iſlands, or diviſions of his government, viz. Grenada with the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago. In theſe inſtructions the king obſerved, that juſtice and ſound policy required, that the new ſubjects (formerly ſubjects of France) remaining in Grenada and the Grenadines, and having liberty to profeſs the Roman-Catholic religion on the faith of the treaty of peace, ſhould be admitted to a limited proportion of the executive and legiſlative offices of government: and he therefor directed, that a number of them, not exceeding two in the council, three in the aſſembly, one as an aſſiſtant judge, and one in each town and pariſh or diſtrict as a juſtice of peace, might be choſen and admitted to exerciſe the functions of ſuch offices in Grenada and the Grenadines, without being obliged to take any other oaths than thoſe of allegiance, ſupremacy, and abjuration, together with thoſe for the due adminiſtration of office.

General Melville this year ſent home very flattering accounts of the proſpect of flouriſhing ſettlements in Tobago, an iſland, which, when he entered upon his government, was one entire wood.

November 18th—The king inſtituted the royal academy of arts, conſiſting of painters, ſtatuaries, architects, &c. and allotted them a houſe in Pall-mall for holding their meetings, for the accommodation of the ſtudents, and for their annual exhibition of paintings and other works of art. This inſtitution has been of great ſervice in promoting the ſtudy of the fine arts, and alſo a taſte for them, in this country.

December 20th—The powers poſſeſſed by the officers of the cuſtoms to ſeize horſes, carriages, &c. employed in carrying ſmuggled foreign ſpirits, were extended to the officers of the exciſe. [9 *Geo. III, c.* 6.]

Funds were appropriated by parliament for improving and preſerving the harbour of Wells in Norfolk. [9 *Geo. III, c.* 8.]

Governor Pallifer's report of the Newfoundland fiſhery for this year repreſents the number of veſſels employed, and the quantity of fiſh, &c. as ſomewhat larger than in preceding years. In the ſalmon particularly there was a very great increaſe, the quantity ſhipped for foreign markets, being no leſs than 40,386 tierces. The trade and fiſhery carried on by the American coloniſts was nearly the ſame as laſt year, with this difference, that their whalers in the Gulf of St. Laurence were ſo unſucceſsful as to get only three whales.

The ſeaſon being very ſtormy, about thirty ſhips and a great number of ſhalops were wrecked, and between four and five hundred men were loſt.

The French this year employed in the fiſhery on the coaſt of Newfoundland 109 veſſels of the burthen of 17,125 tuns, and carrying

7,351 men, who made 214,100 quintals of fiſh and 3,198 hogſheads of oil. Their fiſhers on the banks, from the beſt accounts, might be rated at 225 veſſels of 100 tuns and 20 men each; and their captures were eſtimated at 4,500,000 quintals of fiſh and 900 hogſheads of oil. Their fiſhery on the coaſts of St. Pierre, and Miquelon, and in the Gulf of St. Laurence, from the beſt accounts, employed the ſame number of veſſels as laſt year, viz. 70 veſſels of about 50 tuns and 18 men each on an average, who were ſuppoſed to make 42,500 quintals of fiſh and 458 hogſheads of oil. Their traders from the Weſt-India iſlands this year were only about four ſmall veſſels, their diſappointment in the expected ſales of their rum and melaſſes among our people at Newfoundland having induced moſt of them to give up the trade.

Sixteen French boats were ſeized this year by the veſſels under Governor Palliſer's command for fiſhing beyond their limits.

By the erection of larger and more powerful fire engines the coal mines now began to be worked with greater advantage. One of them ſet up at Tinemouth-moor colliery was eſtimated to raiſe a thouſand hogſheads of water in an hour from the depth of ſeventy feet *.

An improved pump for ſhips was invented by Mr. Cole, and on trial at Portſmouth was found to be leſs cumberſome, eaſier worked, eaſier cleared when choaked, and much more powerful, than the chain pump.

Mr. William Gilchriſt, a millwright in Jamaica, invented a new mill for grinding ſugar canes, having the ſide rollers larger than the middle, or main, roller. The legiſlature of Jamaica in December 1768 paſſed an act for ſecuring to him the excluſive benefit of his invention for fourteen years, and Mr. Gilchriſt afterwards petitioned the king for a patent for all the other Weſt-India iſlands.

A letter from the governor of Cape-coaſt caſtle on the coaſt of Africa to his conſtituents, the committee of merchants trading to Africa, (dated 30 December 1768) complains of the Dutch commander at Elmina having ſeized and otherways maltreated ſeveral Portugueſe veſſels for ſelling Braſil tobacco to the Engliſh ſettlements.

The number of negroes purchaſed by the Europeans in the courſe of this year on the coaſt of Africa, between Cape Blanco and Rio Congo, was ſtated as follows.

By Britiſh veſſels	53,100	59,400
Britiſh Americans	6,300	
French		23,520
Dutch		11,300
Portugueſe		1,700
Denmark		1,200
Total natives of Africa carried off in one year		97,100

* Theſe engines were afterwards eclipſed, and in many places ſuperſeded, by the vaſtly more powerful ſteam engines as improved by Meſſrs. Boulton and Watt.

The imports at Hamburgh from Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Weſt-Indies, this year amounted to £1,169,170 ſterling; and thoſe from France to - 993,318

There arrived at that port this year from the Britiſh dominions 254 veſſels, whereof 20 were Britiſh; from France 160 veſſels, whereof 9 were Britiſh, 79 Dutch, and only 2 French; from Spain 43 veſſels, whereof 21 were Britiſh; from Portugal and Italy 57 veſſels, whereof 22 were Britiſh; and from the northern kingdoms 176 veſſels, whereof 8 were Britiſh.

The number of veſſels cleared out at Newcaſtle this year exceeded that of the year 1767 by 453, the number laſt year being 3,720, and this year, 4,173, whereof 3,728 were coaſters, and 445 for foreign countries.

Of 124 ſhips ſent out by the Dutch to the Greenland whale fiſhery, 5 were loſt in the ice; and the remaining 119 caught 390 whales.

This year the white inhabitants of Jamaica were eſtimated to be 17,000; there were 166,914 negroes on the tax-roll, and 135,773 head of cattle. The exports of the iſland were as follows.

To	Sugar, hhds. 16 cwt. each.	Rum, puncheons 110 gallons each.	Melaſſes, gallons.	Pimento, bags 100 lbs.	Ginger, bags 70 lbs.	Cotton, bags 200 lbs.	Coffee, bags 100 lbs.	Ebony, Fuſtick, Logwood, Lignum-vitæ, Nicaragua wood, tuns.	Mahogany, feet.	Hides.
Great Britain and Ireland.	54,181	11,127		13,116	2,551	2,211	1,491	4,181	443,920	
North America.	1,580	4,424	201,960	738	620	252	2,712		424,080	2,287
Totals	55,761	15,551	201,960	13,854	3,171	2,463	4,203	4,181	868,000	2,287

beſides miſcellaneous articles, which cannot be reckoned.

The whole value of the exports of this year could not be leſs than £1,400,000 ſterling.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,511	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	549,191	tuns,
and of Scotland	1,498	- - -	85,898	
Total -	9,009	- -	635,089	

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was, from the cuſtom-houſe in London - £2,431,916 2 6
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh - 13,100 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms in Great Britain £2,445,016 2 6

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year 18,075 pounds of gold, value - - £844,554 7 6 and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1767 to Chriſtmas 1768, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Africa	£67,249 1 4		£612,392 9 8	£734 1 0
Canaries	4,785 5 5		39,840 19 5	
Denmark and Norway	79,043 15 5	£29,080 0 1	178,041 7 10	17,803 19 6
East country	318,840 13 4		124,121 5 3	
East-India	1,507,963 0 2		1,150,082 16 8	
Flanders	118,595 16 5	14 8 0	608,258 9 1	55,914 11 3
France	133,100 7 3	2,496 0 4	271,828 15 7	337,357 4 0
Germany	689,562 17 9	19,742 2 3	1,499,732 0 4	55,353 4 5
Greenland	12,483 15 6		63 12 0	
Holland	455,814 4 9	104,737 12 7	1,744,974 5 8	300,294 7 11
Ireland	1,220,094 0 3	277,146 7 3	2,248,315 6 5	383,060 9 7
Mann		359 2 0		180 6 0
Italy	673,915 11 5	3,024 6 6	781,350 11 11	12,182 10 9
Madeira	3,864 16 8	543 12 7	25,588 6 3	334 12 3
Poland		25,730 1 3	711,908 4 4	3,313 3 9
Portugal	391,502 3 8	15,679 10 0	711,908 4 4	481 8 0
Prussia		19,358 4 9		303 5 9
Russia	934,817 13 6	104,709 7 3	126,560 14 4	363 3 6
Spain	472,045 2 6	9,667 14 10	1,076,005 7 10	11,559 2 8
Gibraltar		40 0 0		682 1 11
Straits	12,212 18 6		91,005 18 2	
Sweden	204,278 17 2	20,664 19 11	56,352 19 7	5,610 15 10
Turkey	103,679 19 4		109,194 7 8	
Venice	78,209 6 4		41,294 17 8	
Guernsey, &c.	36,287 8 0	3,010 9 0	47,456 1 9	
Hudson's bay	8,008 7 6		5,500 13 9	
Newfoundland	48,357 0 6	2,198 17 8	46,761 2 1	796 4 9
Quebec	37,162 6 4	742 6 0	110,598 12 5	3,116 8 1
Nova-Scotia	1,247 2 6		19,571 12 10	
New-England	148,375 3 6	9,429 3 9	419,797 9 4	11,009 12 8
New-York	87,115 5 10	4,694 5 9	482,930 14 4	7,743 7 3
Pennsylvania	59,406 8 5	2,264 15 1	432,107 17 4	9,722 6 5
Maryland	406,048 13 11	97,241 12 7	475,954 6 2	40,773 5 8
Virginia		273,364 5 0		152,795 1 9
North Carolina	508,108 6 10	8,707 10 10	289,868 12 3	6,329 1 6
South Carolina		9,426 6 4		4,727 11 0
Georgia	42,402 13 10		56,562 13 5	
Florida	14,078 6 3		32,572 0 7	
Antigua	330,013 9 4	63,609 2 4	132,139 9 6	13,895 1 4
Anguilla	6,607 12 1			
Barbados	281,461 3 8	14,021 6 3	191,601 17 7	1,761 10 2
Bermuda	829 8 0		10,526 9 11	
Dominica	203,828 14 8		18,411 3 1	
Grenada	376,940 12 2	18,780 2 0	120,419 18 2	5,657 12 2
Jamaica	1,215,628 19 9	69,458 3 1	473,146 13 3	29,129 19 3
Montserrat	69,563 11 3	3,430 8 4	25,572 5 10	3,308 10 9
Nevis	71,144 17 10		15,874 0 3	
New-Providence	2,523 6 4		6,752 13 9	
St. Chriſtophers	301,328 15 6	24,197 14 1	143,739 0 7	24,859 18 4
St. Vincents	35,762 6 8		24,553 13 4	
Tobago			485 0 2	
Tortola	50,443 19 10		17,746 0 9	
St. Croix	12,383 19 4	49 14 11	6,387 4 4	
St. Thomas	19 5 0			
St. Lucia	891 3 0			
St. Martins				995 10 9
Spaniſh Weſt-Indies	34,633 8 1		4,694 18 0	
Weſt-Indies in general			3,328 15 8	
Imp. and exp. of England	11,878,661 2 7		15,117,982 16 1	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	1,237,619 12 7	1,237,619 12 7	1,502,149 10 1	1,502,149 10 1
Total, Great Britain,	13,116,280 15 2		16,620,132 6 2	

1769—Mr. Bougainville, who in November 1766 had ſailed by order of the king of France on a voyage of diſcovery, arrived at St Malos (14th March), after having made a ſmall ſettlement at Falkland's iſlands, (called by the French les Malouines), and made a circuit of the globe, in the courſe of which he diſcovered many iſlands hitherto unknown.

March—The mines in the neighbourhood of Newcaſtle were now ſo judiciouſly managed as to be very productive of the pretious metals. As a proof of this, a maſs of ſilver weighing 311 pounds, and another of pure gold weighing 18 pounds, were delivered from a refinery near that town.

As the time was near at hand, when the annual payment of £400,000 to government by the Eaſt-India company, and alſo the parliamentary reſtriction of the dividends, would expire, the company, plainly perceiving, that the large ſum exacted from them would thenceforth be conſidered by adminiſtration as a part of the regular revenue, were now only deſirous of being gratified with ſome compenſation for, what they deemed, ſo great a ſacrifice. They therefor requeſted of government to prolong their charter for five years; but it was abſolutely refuſed, and the company were more than ever made ſenſible, that they were entirely in the hands of a ſuperior power, to whoſe will there was a neceſſity of ſubmitting. After holding ſeveral general courts, and much correſpondence between adminiſtration and the company, the following *agreement* was confirmed by parliament.

April 20th—The Eaſt-India company became bound to pay to the public £400,000 annually for five years to come. They were permitted to increaſe their dividends, at a rate not exceeding *One per cent* each year, till they ſhould be raiſed to *Twelve and a half per cent*, which they muſt never exceed. Should the company, inſtead of increaſing, be obliged to reduce, their dividends, a proportional deduction was to be made from the ſum payable to government, which was to be entirely given up, if the company ſhould be obliged to reduce their dividends to *Six per cent*. During the five years the company were obliged to export Britiſh goods equal in value to the average amount of thoſe they exported in the laſt five years. And if any caſh ſhould remain in their treaſury, after the payment of certain ſpecified debts, they were bound to lend it to the public at the intereſt of two per cent. [9 *Geo. III. c.* 24.]

The act for encouraging the coinage of money was made perpetual. [9 *Geo. III. c.* 25.]

The permiſſion to carry rice from the two Carolinas and Georgia to any places ſouth of them, and to places in Europe ſouth of Cape Finiſterre, was prolonged to 24th June 1774. [9 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

May 1st—In conſequence of the petition of the merchants of Jerſey and Guernſey concerned in the Newfoundland fiſhery, they were permitted to export from their iſlands to Newfoundland or the Britiſh colonies in

America all goods of the growth or manufacture of Great Britain neceſſary for the fiſhery, under certain reſtrictions, and to import to thoſe iſlands any non-enumerated goods, except rum. [9 *Geo. III, c.* 28.]

Burning mills, and deſtroying or damaging engines for draining any kind of mines, or the waggon-ways, bridges, trunks, ſtaithes, &c. or fences belonging to any mine, were made felony without benefit of clergy. [9 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

The encouragement hitherto held out to the cultivators of ſilk in the ſouthern American colonies, by purchaſing the cocoons for government at a price above their value, having been found to effect no conſiderable exertions in the production of that article, it was now determined, that the encouragement ſhould be in the form of a bounty upon the importation of ſilk produced in America into Great Britain in veſſels legally navigated, as follows.

from 1ſt Jan. 1770 to 1ſt Jan. 1777 a premium of 25 per cent,
from 1ſt Jan. 1777 to 1ſt Jan. 1784 20 per cent,
and from 1ſt Jan. 1784 to 1ſt Jan. 1791 15 per cent,
on the value of the ſilk. [9 *Geo. III, c.* 38.]

The importation of raw hides and ſkins from Ireland and the Britiſh colonies in America free of duty was permitted for five years; and the duty upon ſeal ſkins, tanned or tawed, was altered to three halfpence a pound, of which one penny to be drawn back upon exportation. [9 *Geo. III, c.* 39.]

The mode of paying the prizes in the lottery was this year altered. Inſtead of giving the proprietors of the fortunate tickets annuities in the funds proportioned to the ſum of their prizes, government now engaged to pay the value in caſh. Inſtead of limiting the higheſt prize to £10,000, one or two prizes of £20,000, and ſeveral of £10,000, were now introduced*.

The Eaſt-India company loſt no time in availing themſelves of the permiſſion contained in the late act to augment their dividend one per cent; and their dividend for July was accordingly paid at the rate of *eleven* per cent.

July 10th—The iſland of St. John in the Gulf of St. Laurence was detached from the government of Nova-Scotia; and the king appointed Walter Paterſon Eſquire to be the firſt governor of it. Settlers had begun to reſort to this iſland the preceding ſummer; a town plot was laid out; and great hopes were entertained of the proſperity of the colony.

General Carlton, governor of Quebec, ſent home a report of the manufactures in his provinces, which conſiſted of the following articles.

* Succeeding lotteries have had one, and frequently even two, prizes of £30,000; and in general it has been the policy of the lottery ſchemes to throw the moſt of the money into great prizes, in order to hold out temptations to avarice, and to enlarge the chance of rich prizes remaining in the wheel till late in the drawing.

A conſiderable quantity of coarſe linen made for private uſe from flax raiſed in the country.

Some worſted ſtockings knit by the women, and ſome linſy-woolſy ſtuffs.

A coarſe kind of earthen ware for milk pans, &c.

Some leather, very indifferently tanned with hemlock-ſpruce, for making mocaſſins (a kind of ſhoes), for which purpoſe large quantities of American tanned leather are imported from the other colonies, the Britiſh leather being too ſtrong, and too dear.

About 400,000 pounds of bar iron, made at the forges of St. Maurice.

Iron ware for the moſt common uſes, and alſo edge tools, axes, and hatchets, for the conſumption of the country, and for the Indians.

Pearl-aſh and pot-aſh were made for about two years preceding this time, but hitherto with little ſucceſs. With proper encouragement they might become important articles of commerce, as might alſo hemp and flax.

A diſtillery of rum from melaſſes, newly eſtabliſhed at Quebec, was expected to ſave conſiderable ſums, hitherto ſent to New-England and New-York, and alſo to introduce a direct trade with the Weſt-Indies.

Such were the manufactures of this province; far beneath the jealouſy of Britiſh manufacturers. But in the diſcontented provinces they were much more conſiderable *.

Auguſt 17th—The flouriſhing iſland of Antigua was greatly diſtreſſed by a fire, which almoſt reduced to aſhes the town of St. John's, the capital. The damage was eſtimated at £400,000.

The Eaſt-India company had now been for ſome time engaged in a haraſſing and expenſive war with Hyder Aly, a ſoldier of fortune, who by ſuperior talents, and the aſſiſtance of European officers in diſciplining his armies, had raiſed himſelf from a low ſtation to be the ſovereign of a great and rich territory in the ſouth part of India. The company's ſervants in India were charged with having wantonly ruſhed into this war to ſerve their own private ends, to the diſgrace of the Britiſh name, and the ruin of the intereſt of their employers committed to their charge; and they were moreover ſaid to have conducted it more like a lucrative job than a regular ſyſtem of warfare. General Smith's hands being tied up by this plan of miſconduct, Hyder, by a judicious and rapid movement, entered the territories of the nabob of Arcot, the faithful ally of the company; and, after pouring out his vengeance againſt him, he preſented himſelf in great force within ſeven miles of Madras, whereby he was enabled to dictate the terms of a peace to the government of that preſidency, and to compell them to lay their

* A more general account of American manufactures will be given under the year 1775.

commands on General Smith to deſiſt from purſuing the advantages he was ready to reap by Hyder's abſence from his capital.

The war with Hyder having exhauſted the treaſury of the preſidency of Madras, remittances were made to it from Bengal, for which they were obliged to have recourſe to a baſe ſpecies of gold coin, on the exchange of which the company loſt £40,000. A total ſtop was put to the inveſtments, which uſed to be made from Madras to China: and the manufacturers of the country were ruined by the ravages of the enemy, or at a ſtand for want of ſale. Such were the effects of this war upon the company's affairs in India. At home the alarm excited by the rumour of the diſtant evil operated ſo powerfully upon the imagination and the fears of the ſtock-holders, that India ſtock fell above 60 per cent in a few days, though the directors publiſhed the diſpatches they had juſt received from India, whereby it appeared, that the company's affairs in that part of the world were in general in a flouriſhing ſtate, and that there was no reaſon to apprehend any ruinous conſequences from the war with Hyder.

The directors, however, were fully ſenſible, that it was abſolutely neceſſary to take ſome vigorous ſteps to correct the abuſes, which were too evident in the conduct of their ſervants in India; and they determined upon ſending out as ſupervifors three gentlemen of acknowleged ability, character, and experience, in the affairs of India, and to inveſt them with ample powers to redreſs the evils, and controul the abuſes, which exiſted in that country.

As to the neceſſity of ſuch a meaſure there was no doubt or diſpute, except with the friends of thoſe who were ſuppoſed liable to ſuffer by a reform in India: but there were great differences of opinion reſpecting the degree of power proper to be delegated to the ſupervifors. When, after very keen diſputes, this matter was at laſt ſettled by the court of proprietors, government unexpectedly interfered with a demand that an officer commiſſioned from the crown ſhould have a principal ſhare in the direction of the company's affairs in India; the conſequence of which was ſuppoſed by the company nothing ſhort of a complete ſurrender of their territorial acquiſitions into the hands of the miniſtry, than which, it was argued, it would be far better to reſign them to the princes of the country, who in return would give the company terms of the greateſt advantage to their commerce. The company thought the government ought to be content with receiving from them annually a ſum, exceeding the whole dividends paid to all the proprietors, and exceeding the revenues of many ſovereign princes, without attempting to ſet up a jarring authority, which muſt infallibly involve them in ruin. At length the conteſt between government and the company was in a great meaſure got rid of by the former ſending out a naval officer with extraordinary powers, the operation of which was confined to the

Gulf of Perſia, where the company had ſome petty diſputes with a few turbulent chiefs on the coaſts. Afterwards the powers to be veſted in Meſſieurs Vanſittart, Scrafton, and Ford, as ſupervifors, were finally adjuſted; and government appointed two frigates to conduct them to India *.

The flouriſhing and improved ſtate of the company's commerce was made evident from a comparative examination of their exports, whereby it appeared, that the manufactures, products, ſtores, &c. ſhipped by them in the ſeven years ending with 29th September 1769 had exceeded thoſe of the ſeven preceding years by the ſum of £959,379 : 4 : 11; and that the gold and ſilver exported in the ſame ſpace of time were leſs by £1,374,591 : 7 : 6; that in the year 1767 there was only £946 : 5 : 4, and in 1768 *none at all*, the great remittances from Bengal and Madras having been ſufficient, with the goods carried from England to China, for the inveſtments from that empire. The accounts of a ſcarcity of ſilver in Bengal, and the uncertainty how far that preſidency might be enabled by the territorial revenue to ſend ſupplies to China, induced the company in 1769 to ſhip ſilver to the amount of £162,137 : 10 : 0 to China.

October.—The diſcontents of the journeymen ſilk-weavers were frequently breaking out in combinations for raiſing their wages, and for impoſing taxes upon their brethren to ſupport them in idleneſs and in their acts of violence upon the property of their employers, whoſe looms, together with the goods in them, they frequently deſtroyed, in defiance of the law, which puniſhes ſuch enormities by death. Their riots were at length ſuppreſſed, but not without bloodſhed, ſeveral of themſelves, and ſome of the ſoldiers, being killed in the ſkirmiſhes.

An account of the exports of the province of South Carolina from 1st November 1768 to 1st November 1769 was ſent home by Lieutenant-governor Bull. They amounted to £404,056 ſterling, whereof there was ſhipped for Great Britain to the amount of - £260,504
Portugal, 24,264 barrels of rice, - - 54,594
Spain, 5,046 do. - - - - 11,353

The chief articles of the exports, with their prices in Charleſtown, were as follows.

					Sterling.
Rice -	123,317 barrels at	£2	5	0	£277,463 5 0
Butter -	789 firkins	2	2	6	- 1,676 12 6
Pitch - -	6,106 barrels	0	7	0	- 2,137 2 0
Turpentine -	4,616 ———	0	12	0	- 2,769 12 0
Tanned leather	2,413 ſides	1	12	0	- 3,860 16 0
Pork - -	2,179 barrels	0	17	0	- 1,852 3 0

* The Aurora frigate, onboard which theſe gentlemen were, was unhappily loſt, and it was never known where or how they periſhed.

Tobacco	214,210	pounds	0	15	0	per cwt.	1,606	6	6
Indigo	380,570	———	0	3	6	-	66,599	15	0
Hemp	290,095	———	1	3	0	per cwt.	3,336	2	6
Indian corn	65,751	buſhels	0	2	0	-	6,575	2	0
Peas	11,680	———	0	2	0	-	1,168	0	0
Flour	2,754	barrels	1	17	6	-	5,163	15	0
Ship bread	898	———	1	6	0	-	1,167	14	0
Staves	229,500		5	0	0	per M.	1,147	10	0
Planks and boards	678,350	feet	0	7	0	per C.	2,374	4	6
Shingles	1,987,000		0	14	6	per M.	1,440	11	6
Deer ſkins	184,221	pounds	0	2	0	-	18,422	2	0
Raw ſilk	1,014	———	1	0	6	-	1,039	7	0

Beſides theſe there were a variety of other articles, none of which amounted to £1000 ſterling *.

The Turks iſlands uſed to be reſorted to in the proper ſeaſon by people from Jamaica and Bermuda for raking (or collecting) the ſalt, the only produce of thoſe iſlands; and veſſels from North America uſed to call there with money and proviſions to purchaſe cargoes of ſalt: and no other trade was carried on there.

But after the eſtabliſhment of an agent ſome people from Bermuda ſettled on the iſlands, and took upon them by regulations of their own to exclude all others from the benefit of the ſalt-ponds. The Turks iſlands ſoon became not merely a port for the ſalt trade, but alſo an entre-port, where veſſels from the northern colonies, St. Euſtathius, Curaçoa, Hiſpaniola, and Cuba, met, and, as there was no cuſtom-houſe, carried on an uncontrouled trade in their ſeveral commodities and the manufactures of their reſpective mother countries, and alſo carried off the rough materials of manufactures produced in the Bahama iſlands (which were illegally carried to that rendezvous), to the great prejudice of the revenue and fair trade of Great Britain.

Such was the report made to the governor of the Bahama iſlands by Mr. Brown, an old officer of the government at New-Providence. The report of the arrivals of veſſels made by Mr. Symer, the agent for Turks iſlands, has only ſeven from Boſton and one from Piſcataqua, loaded with lumber, fiſh, ſpermaceti candles, beef, pork, onions, potatoes, &c. † But it appears by his liſt of arrivals from 2d March to 15th November 1769, that 110 veſſels came to the iſlands in that time from various parts of America ‡ and the Weſt-India iſlands, foreign as well as Britiſh, which carried on a free and uncontrouled trade in Britiſh and fo-

* Among theſe there were 39 barrels of bitter-ſweet oranges, (a ſpecies now neglected) and 100 gallons of orange juice.

† If Mr. Brown's account of the trade is correct, the illicit arrivals of the foreign veſſels had hitherto been ſuppreſſed in the agent's report.

‡ It is worthy of being noted, that, even at this time, one of theſe veſſels was named *The free American*.

reign produce and manufactures, as well as ſalt, whereby it was apprehended that the Americans might be enabled to perſiſt in their agreements againſt importing Britiſh goods, as they could eaſily be ſupplied through this channel with the manufactures of other countries; and it was obſerved, on a viſit to Turks iſlands by the governor of the Bahama iſlands, that the people there were generally dreſſed in French manufactures.

The linen exported from Dublin, which in the year 1768 amounted to 18,490,195 yards, was this year only 17,790,705.

The report of Mr. Swallow, the Britiſh conſul at Peterſburg, for this year ſhows, that the general trade of that place was increaſing, and that the Britiſh trade thither, employing this year 322 veſſels, was conſiderably more than the whole trade of all other nations at that port *.

In the courſe of this year the goods imported into Hamburgh from Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Weſt-Indies, in 216 veſſels, whereof 178 were Britiſh, amounted in value to £949,074 5 0 ſterling,
And the imports at the ſame city from the ports of France in 203 veſſels, whereof 17 were Britiſh, *and not one French*, - 1,208,461 10 0

The commerce of the Baltic ſea appears to have been increaſing at this time; for there were 449 more veſſels which paſſed the Sound in this year, than there were in the preceding one. The following is the ſtatement for 1769.

Veſſels belonging to		Veſſels belonging to	
Bremen	99	Lubeck	49
Courland	10	Pruſſia	296
Denmark	1,032	Ruſſia	35
Dantzick	262	Roſtock	62
England	1,840	Sweden	1,149
France	13	Spain	3
Holland	2,508		
Hamburgh,	20		1,594
	5,784		5,784
		Total	7,378

An eſtimate was made this year of the trade of the North-American provinces, including Hudſon's bay and Newfoundland, wherein the Britiſh veſſels employed in trading with thoſe colonies are ſtated to be 1,078, carrying 28,910 ſeamen. The exports from Great Britain are made to amount to £3,370,900, and the exports from the colonies to

* Mr. Swallow's ſtatement, which is very circumſtantial, was honoured with a letter from the lords of trade, ſignifying their ſatisfaction with the accuracy of his reports, which contain the quantity of every article ſhipped to every port, but not their value.

£3,924,606: but, if we are to judge from the cuſtom-houſe accounts, there ſeems reaſon to believe that the amount is exaggerated *.

In the courſe of this year the empreſs of Germany declared Oſtend a free port; and the king of Denmark declared his port of Glukſtadt at the mouth of the Elbe alſo free, and aboliſhed the duties on veſſels and goods.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,939	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	573,987 tuns,
and of Scotland	1,508	- - -	80,928
Total	9,447	- - -	654,915

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London - £2,629,086 4 6
And from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh - 10,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain £2,639,086 4 6

There were coined in the courſe of the year 13,410 pounds of gold, value - - £626,582 5 0 and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1768 to Chriſtmas 1769, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£58,955 12 6		£605,180 5 11	
Canaries	6,612 5 11	£462 1 11	36,036 6 3	£212 9 10
Denmark and Norway	82,469 8 4	38,235 0 3	169,155 6 2	17,838 7 2
East Country	159,481 13 9		74,422 3 2	
East-India	1,863,233 14 10		1,205,388 18 4	
Flanders	103,276 18 3	1,179 9 1	623,579 2 10	62,676 17 0
France	91,245 6 11	2,235 13 5	113,310 9 11	299,498 19 10
Germany	619,181 11 9	18,433 14 9	1,338,866 9 8	50,130 15 1
Greenland	21,353 0 5	3,921 0 3	72 0 0	1 17 6
Holland	323,720 14 5	110,755 10 10	1,658,551 13 1	306,085 10 8
Ireland	1,265,107 12 8	144,501 14 2	1,961,742 1 9	419,271 1 9
Mann		788 1 7		150 19 10
Italy	930,045 19 0	3,493 3 5	746,220 6 2	6,420 12 0
Minorca				2,936 1 3
Madeira	4,935 9 7	470 17 8	27,459 2 3	
Poland		9,543 19 11		1,667 18 4
Portugal	369,120 9 1	14,547 7 8	545,367 2 2	763 16 7
Prussia		14,028 6 2		895 10 6
Ruſſia	1,038,614 15 10	127,975 8 9	158,777 11 5	3,158 8 11
Spain	577,816 6 4	7,942 3 5	830,893 19 6	10,407 0 6
Gibraltar		30 6 1		1,507 13 4

* The firſt article, the exports from Great Britain to Hudſon's bay, is ſtated at £16,000; but the *official* value of the exports to that ſettlement in ſeveral of the early years is under £1,000, and ſometimes nothing. In this year it was £4,655; and I do not find any year in which it has reached £9,000 in the cuſtom-houſe accounts.

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Straits	£7,775 5 7		£142,237 15 4	
Sweden	182,896 8 3	£18,408 1 11	57,211 14 8	£3,814 18 3
Turkey	144,419 17 3		90,880 12 6	
Venice	60,376 5 8		74,371 8 8	
Guernsey, &c.	32,728 0 4	1,643 17 8	65,794 19 10	
Hudson's bay	7,087 5 7		4,055 13 4	
Newfoundland	50,835 3 3	4,983 10 1	64,080 5 4	961 11 3
Quebec	43,434 2 3	179 7 4	174,435 5 7	2,909 3 7
Nova-Scotia	2,270 3 7		19,271 0 2	
New-England	120,353 3 8	13,422 9 1	207,993 14 3	15,701 17 3
New-York	73,466 3 9	39,916 4 11	74,918 7 10	1,012 11 9
Pennsylvania	26,111 11 4	2,000 15 5	199,909 17 11	5,069 19 5
Maryland	} 361,892 12 0	{ 98,353 6 8	} 488,362 15 1	{ 51,511 4 1
Virginia		{ 299,715 6 4		{ 175,069 16 6
North Carolina	} 387,114 12 1	{ 11,312 6 8	} 306,600 5 6	{ 11,847 2 8
South Carolina		{ 6,587 14 4		{ 8,637 0 4
Georgia	82,270 2 3		58,340 19 4	
Florida	1,744 12 2		29,509 4 10	185 3 1
Antigua	232,680 8 6	48,906 10 0	151,642 2 9	9,333 15 6
Anguilla	3,747 17 3			
Barbados	254,092 15 6	26,528 6 0	165,050 10 9	5,164 1 9
Bermuda	1,744 19 3		12,621 8 9	
Dominica	158,543 2 4		31,863 10 1	
Grenada	307,562 15 1	21,398 16 7	113,054 6 8	9,871 10 8
Jamaica	1,266,630 9 4	110,054 19 7	570,468 10 11	53,360 14 3
Montserrat	77,653 16 0	783 13 9	23,110 1 9	92 15 4
Nevis	40,379 4 6	3,179 15 9	10,428 9 5	
New-Providence	4,435 15 11		6,682 18 8	
St. Christophers	224,096 9 9	18,796 11 0	115,609 10 4	24,005 3 2
St. Vincents	70,772 9 3		33,720 16 10	
Tobago			6,119 0 0	770 1 0
Tortola	54,560 1 5		27,106 12 10	
Turks islands		812 3 8		
St. Croix	18,220 1 3		2,809 4 10	103 10 0
Spanish West-Indies	81,494 2 6		11,352 3 7	
Imp. and exp. of England	11,908,560 16 5		13,438,236 6 11	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	1,225,529 16 1	1,225,529 16 1	1,563,045 19 0	1,563,045 19 0
Total, Great Britain	13,134,090 12 6		15,001,282 5 11	

1770—The French Eaſt-India company, notwithſtanding the advantages beſtowed upon them by the king in the year 1764, continued to languiſh and decline. On the 13th of Auguſt 1769 their excluſive privilege was ſuſpended by an arret of council, and leave given to all French ſubjects to ſail to India, they being obliged to take out a paſſport (free of expenſe) from the India company, to return to no other port but L'Orient, where warehouſes and other conveniencies were provided, and to pay a duty of *five per cent* on the merchandize of India and China, and *three per cent* on that of the iſles of France and Bourbon.

The company thereupon offered to ſurrender to the king all their ſhipping, amounting to thirty veſſels, all their naval and military ſtores,

their warehouſes in France, their forts with all their dependencies in India, together with 2,450 ſlaves belonging to them in India, for the ſum of thirty millions of livres, and they at the ſame time aſked payment of ſixteen millions and a half of livres due to them by the king. But he, by his edict of January 1770, gave them an annuity of 1,200,000 livres in full compenſation for the ſums demanded by them. This mode of ſettling their affairs they were obliged to ſubmit to; and, after ſome other arrangements, needleſs to be here detailed, the French Eaſt-India company appear to have become dormant, though not extinct, as a trading company, and ſunk into a ſet of proprietors of dividends payable by the government.

From the time that the Engliſh Eaſt-India company ſucceeded to the territorial revenues of Bengal to April 1770, when the edict for the ſuſpenſion of the French company's monopoly arrived in India, the amount of the duties paid by that company into the cuſtom-houſe at Hougley was as follows.

		Sicca rupees.
From Septemper 1765 to April 1766	-	10,085 8 0
From May 1766 to April 1767	-	12,579 5 8
From May 1767 to April 1768	-	18,354 13 4
From May 1768 to April 1769	-	18,310 12 4
From May 1769 to April 1770	-	12,185 13 8

Theſe ſums multiplied by 40 give the total of the French company's trade at that factory, as ſtated by themſelves. What was paid by the French factories at Patna, Dacca, &c. or by private French merchants, (whoſe duties were four per cent on the amount of their invoices) does not appear from any books or accounts received at the India-houſe.

The French Eaſt-India trade did not flouriſh after it was laid open, though the duties payable in France were very moderate; and the king is ſaid to have lent his ſhips to ſome of the adventurers. The failure of ſucceſs may in a great meaſure be imputed to the want of due experience of the nature of the trade in many of thoſe whom the ſuſpenſion of the monopoly induced to become adventurers. But probably the moſt effectual cauſe of the want of ſucceſs was the general diſtreſs brought upon the country by the diſgraceful breach of faith in the government, who reduced the intereſt of the national debt to one half of the ſtipulated rate, and deprived the holders of tontine ſtock of the benefit of ſurvivorſhip. This ſhameleſs ſtretch of power to plunder the ſubject brought ruin upon many thouſands of individuals, and was probably the principal cauſe of the numerous bankruptcies, which about this time ſpread miſery and diſmay through the whole kingdom of France *.

* One houſe at Marſeille failed for twenty millions of livres.

March 16th—The act for prohibiting the exportation of all ſorts of grain and malt, and the extraction of ſpirits from wheat, and permitting the importation of ſalted meat and butter from Ireland and America for a limited time, was continued. And the free importation of tallow, hog's lard, and greaſe, was alſo continued till 25th March 1773. [10 *Geo. III, cc.* 1, 2.]

But the exportation of malt was very ſoon afterwards permitted (29th March). [10 *Geo. III, c.* 10.]

April 12th—The merchants trading to America having preſented a petition, ſetting forth the great loſſes they ſuſtained by the interruption of their trade in conſequence of the late laws,

The act [7 *Geo. III, c.* 46] for laying duties on glaſs, &c. landed in the Britiſh colonies in America was repealed, as to glaſs, red-lead, white-lead, painter's colours, paper, and paſteboards, 'as the ſaid duties, in ſo 'far as they affect the produce and manufactures of Great Britain, do 'in their nature tend to the prejudice and diſcouragement thereof, and 'are therefor contrary to the true principles of commerce.' The draw-back on China ware carried to America was alſo reſtored, but the duty on tea was allowed to remain in force, [10 *Geo. III, c.* 17] being intended as a ſmall acknowlegement (or aſſertion) of the ſupremacy of the Britiſh parliament in the legiſlative and revenue concerns of the colonies *.

The fields to the weſtward of London, in the pariſh of St. Mary-le-bone (commonly called Marybone) having been very much built upon, the ſeveral regulations for paving, lighting, &c. for the names of the ſtreets and numbers of the houſes, for regulating weights, meaſures, &c. were extended to that quarter. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 23.]

The liberty of carrying rice to any part of Europe ſouth of Cape Finiſterre, which had been formerly granted to the provinces of Carolina and Georgia, was extended to the two Floridas. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 31.]

The commiſſioners of the longitude were empowered to receive propoſals relating to the diſcovery of the longitude, and for improving the lunar tables, or for any other diſcoveries or improvements uſeful to navigation; and, if they ſhould think the propoſed improvements worthy of a reward, to recommend them to the commiſſioners of the navy for a reward not exceeding £5,000. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 34.]

Of two millions of money, borrowed in the 29th year of George II, one half million was added to the three-per-cent funds; and one million and a half conſtituted a particular fund or ſtock, bearing intereſt at

* The bill for this repeal was brought into parliament on the 5th of March, and on the evening of that very ſame day a ſquabble happened in the ſtreets of Boſton between the town's people and the ſoldiers, who had long viewed each other with an evil eye, wherein four of the town's people were killed, and ſeven wounded. This was the firſt blood ſhed in the unhappy quarrel between Great Britain and the colonies.

three and a half per cent, with a condition, in the option of parliament, to be repaid any time after the expiration of fifteen years computed from the 11th of February 1756; which ſum was accordingly now ordered to be paid off at the bank on the 12th of February 1771. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 36.]

The encouragement given to the cultivation of indigo in the Britiſh colonies in America was continued till the 25th of March 1777. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

The permiſſion to import linen yarn, and the bounty of three halfpence a yard on the exportation of Britiſh and Iriſh linens not exceeding 1/6 per yard in value, were continued till 24th June 1778. A new bounty of one halfpenny per yard was allowed upon Britiſh checqued and ſtriped linens, not leſs than 25 inches in breadth, and from 7*d* to 1/6 in value: and the bounty of three halfpence was extended to ſheetings and table linens above yard-wide, to be computed on the ſquare yard, ſo that the value do not exceed 1/6 the ſquare yard. In order to prevent finer linens from being entered for the bounty, the officers of the cuſtoms are empowered to take to themſelves ſuch linens on paying the proprietor one penny a yard above the invoice price. The bounties allowed by this act are ordered to be paid without any fee, reward, or deduction whatſoever. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 38.]

In order to encourage the cultivation of hemp and flax in this kingdom, additional duties had been laid on foreign linens [7 *Geo. III, c.* 58] to conſtitute a fund not exceeding £15,000 a year. It was now enacted that £8,000 of that ſum ſhould be appropriated to thoſe purpoſes in England; and no leſs than £7,000 a year for the ſame purpoſes ſhould be put under the management of the truſtees for fiſheries and manufactures in Scotland. If the allotted funds ſhould fall ſhort, England ſhould have eight fifteenths, and Scotland ſeven fifteenths of the money collected*. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 40.]

Whereas a regiſter of the prices of corn in the ſeveral counties in Great Britain was thought generally uſeful, the juſtices of peace were directed to give orders at their firſt quarter ſeſſions after the 29th of September in every year for returns to be made weekly of the prices of every kind of grain, and to cauſe a ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel of eight gallons to be kept at each market town. The returns are to be tranſmitted to the treaſury, and there to be regiſtered in a book kept for that purpoſe, an abſtract of which is ordered to be publiſhed weekly in the London gazette. It was alſo enacted, that a regiſter ſhould be kept of the quantities of corn exported and imported, with the amount of the bounties paid, and duties received, on the ſame, to be made up from re-

* It appears by the thirteenth Report of the commiſſioners for examining the public accounts, dated 18th March 1785, that no claims had then been made in England for any premiums for raiſing hemp and flax; and that ſome payments had been made in Scotland on that account.

turns to be tranſmitted from the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms in England and Scotland. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 39.]

The duties formerly paid upon foreign hats or bonnets made of baſt or ſtraw, chip, cane, and horſe-hair, were repealed; and a new duty impoſed of 12*s* on every dozen of ſuch hats, &c. not above 22 inches in diameter, and of 25*s* for ſuch as exceed that dimenſion; and of 6*s*/8 a pound on plating and other materials of baſt, &c. uſed in making hats. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 43.]

Traders in exciſeable commodities, found guilty of keeping falſe weights and ſcales for weighing their exciſeable ſtock, were ſubjected to a penalty of £100. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 44.]

The penalty of 30 per cent, payable to the India company on goods imported from the Eaſt-Indies by Britiſh ſubjects trading to India under foreign commiſſions, not being found ſufficient to check ſuch illicit trade, it was now raiſed to cent per cent on the value of all goods ſo imported. By the ſame act the civil and military ſervants of the company were made amenable to the court of king's bench in England for acts of oppreſſion committed in India. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 47.]

Perſons knowingly receiving ſtolen jewels or gold and ſilver plate were made liable to tranſportation for fourteen years. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 48.]

The delays and evaſions of juſtice occaſioned by the privileges enjoyed by the members of both houſes of parliament, and even by their ſervants, were found extremely prejudicial in a commercial country. It was therefor enacted, that after the 24th of June 1770 ſuits might be proſecuted in courts of record, equity, or admiralty, and courts having cauſes matrimonial and teſtamentary, againſt peers and all members of parliament, without arreſting their perſons: and the courts may order the iſſues levied by diſtreſs infinite to be ſold, and the money to be applied under the direction of the court to pay the plaintiffs coſts. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 50.]

An act of the Scottiſh parliament in the year 1685 had empowered landed gentlemen to entail their eſtates with ſuch proviſions and reſtrictions as they thought proper, which tallies [entails] when completed and publiſhed in the manner directed by the act, were declared effectual againſt purchaſers, creditors, and all others whatſoever: and many of the entails, made in conſequence of this act, limited the poſſeſſors of eſtates from granting leaſes beyond their own lives. Such a law being an effectual bar againſt all improvement, it was now altered ſo far as to permit the poſſeſſors of eſtates ſo entailed to give leaſes for fourteen years and one exiſting life, for two exiſting lives and the life of the ſurvivor, or for any number of years not exceeding thirty-one; provided that ſuch leaſes ſhall oblige the tenants to improve the lands in the manner expreſſed in the act. They are alſo enabled to grant leaſes for ninety-nine years of lots, not exceeding five acres to one perſon, for the pur-

poſe of building villages conſiſting of at leaſt two houſes upon each acre, of the value of at leaſt £10 each houſe, which muſt be kept in ſufficient tenantable repair. But no leaſe is to be made at an under-rent in conſideration of a ſum paid in hand.

In order further to encourage the poſſeſſors of entailed eſtates in Scotland to improve them by incloſing, planting, and draining, and to build ſuitable farm-houſes and offices for the tenants, every ſuch poſſeſſor, on complying with the preſcribed forms, is empowered during his life-time to charge the eſtate for ſuch purpoſes with a debt amounting to three fourths of the money ſo expended, but which ſhall not exceed four years' free and net rent; which debt the ſucceeding heir of entail ſhall be liable to pay, with intereſt computed from the time of his acceſſion to the eſtate, to the executor of the preceding poſſeſſor, unleſs ſuch executor be himſelf the heir of entail, before he can make any improvements himſelf with a view to conſtitute a debt upon the next heir of entail. In the ſame manner the poſſeſſor is enabled to build a manſion-houſe for himſelf, and to throw three fourths of the expenſe upon his ſucceſſor, ſo as the debt thus created do not exceed two years net rent of the eſtate.

For the further improvement of ſuch entailed eſtates, the poſſeſſors are empowered to exchange, under the authority of the ſhirref or ſtewart of the ſhire, any detached parcels of land, not exceeding 30 acres of arable or 100 acres of hill or paſture, for equivalent parcels ſituated more conveniently for the improvement of the entailed eſtate, ſuch newly-acquired pieces of land being ſubject to all the reſtrictions of the entail, as much as the reſt of the eſtate. And laſtly, all tallies (or entails) of eſtates in Scotland, made either before or after the year 1685, are equally liable to the modifications of this act. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 51.]

Whoever conſiders the cloſe connection between improvements of agriculture and the proſperity of commerce, will not think the abridgement of this law impertinent in a hiſtory of commerce.

An act was made for regulating the coal-heavers on the River Thames, and protecting them from the oppreſſions of the coal-undertakers. [10 *Geo III, c.* 53.]

The corporation of the city of Glaſgow was empowered to improve the navigation of the River Clyde, and to build a bridge over the river. [10 *Geo. III, c.* 104.]

Many canals in various parts of the country (the chief of which will be noticed in due time), and alſo the improvement of ſeveral ſmall harbours, were provided for in this ſeſſion of parliament.

The advocates for a ſettlement upon Falkland's iſlands, in their ſanguine expectations of advantages to be derived from it, ſaw not only the facility of diſtreſſing the Spaniſh ſettlements in time of war, which (as already obſerved under the year 1766) was the object Lord Anſon had

in view in firſt propoſing it, but alſo vaſt proſpects of extenſive trade with the Indian nations of Chili and the ſouthern extremity of America, and the natives of the great continent to be diſcovered in the Antarctic regions, the viſionary *Terra auſtralis incognita*, beſides the profitable clandeſtine trade with the Spaniſh and Portugueſe ſettlements in South America. Similar ideas with reſpect to trade ſeem to have prevailed about the ſame time in France, which produced Mr. Bougainville's voyage and a ſettlement upon thoſe iſlands, called Port Louis, afterwards reſigned by France to Spain.

In the later part of the year 1769 Captain Hunt, the commanding officer at the Britiſh ſettlement called Port Egmont, diſcovered, that there was a Spaniſh colony with a governor at the head of it at the old French ſettlement, to which the Spaniards had given the new name of Port Solidad. A correſpondence thereupon enſued between the two commanders, wherein each aſſerted the ſole right of his ſovereign to the country, and warned the other to depart. In February 1770 two Spaniſh frigates arrived, the commander of which proteſted againſt the Britiſh ſettlement, declaring at the ſame time, that he would take no further ſtep till he ſhould acquaint his court of the affair. Captain Hunt thereupon thought it beſt to go home to inform government of what had happened; and he left two ſloops of war to keep poſſeſſion in his abſence, one of which was afterwards loſt on the coaſt of America. In the beginning of June five Spaniſh frigates, with a conſiderable military force, arrived at Port Egmont, which obliged the Britiſh commander to ſurrender the place, but not his ſhip, to the Spaniards. The ſhip, however, by an article of the capitulation, was not to ſail till a limited time; and for ſecuring the performance of that article the Spaniards thought proper to unhang the ſhip's rudder, and carry it on ſhore.

The affront put upon the Britiſh flag, and particularly the affair of the rudder, was loudly reſented at home; and the minds of moſt people were much enflamed and eager for a war with Spain; a war, which the ſuggeſtions of the dæmon of avarice, ſtifling the wiſer counſel of the genius of commerce, too often renders popular with the unthinking vulgar. In ſhort, this trifling object was upon the point of plunging Europe, or rather the whole world, into the horrors of war; and the premiums of inſurance upon outward-bound veſſels actually roſe from *four* to *ten* per cent. But the king of Spain, having happily no inclination for hoſtilities, (or being *ſtrongly* adviſed againſt them) in the beginning of the following year (January 1771) formally diſavowed the act of his officer, and ordered the place to be reſtored to Great Britain. It was accordingly taken poſſeſſion of (16th September 1771); and afterwards, upon a ſufficient experience of its inutility, it was ſilently abandoned in the year 1774.

On the application of the planters and others concerned in the iſland

of Dominica, repreſenting, that its great diſtance from Grenada, the ſeat of government, rendered the connection with that iſland very detrimental to it, it was reſolved to erect it into a ſeparate government; and Sir William Young, who was lieutenant-governor of it under General Melville, the governor-general, was appointed the firſt governor.

Mr. George Walker, the juſtly-renowned commander of the ſquadron of private ſhips of war, called *The Royal family*, and the public-ſpirited promoter of fiſheries at Campbelltown and elſewhere in Scotland, ſent home from Nova-Scotia a memorial to the board of trade, ſetting forth, that about ſeven years ago he had carried a large cargo of ſalt and fiſhing implements in his own ſhips to America, and having eſtabliſhed a ſettlement on the coaſt of Nova-Scotia northward of St. John's iſland, entered largely into the fiſhery. He obſerves, that the coaſt from Baye vert (Green bay) to the Bay of Chaleur, a tract of about 50 leagues, is the moſt productive of fiſh of any part of America; that the Bay of Chaleur abounds with ſalmon, cod, herring, mackerel, ſturgeon, baſs little inferior to ſalmon, lobſters, and oyſters; and that it is the only place in that country free of fogs, whereby the fiſh are caught and cured ſix weeks earlier than elſewhere, and conſequently can be ſo much ſooner at market; and he adds, that about the firſt of July the fiſh migrate to the coaſt of Labrador. That great tract of coaſt, whereon he had ſettled, was now in the legal poſſeſſion of about twenty Britiſh families, and ſtill inhabited by numbers of Indians, and by many Acadian French, who took advantage of their remoteneſs from the ſeat of government, there being no other authority in the whole country than a ſingle unſupported magiſtrate (Mr. Walker himſelf), to inſtill principles of hoſtility to the Britiſh ſettlers into the minds of the Indians. The French moreover uſed to procure from the Indians large quantities of furs in exchange for French goods, which were run in upon the coaſt from St. Pierre and Miquelon. The total want of any legal reſtraint encouraged the people employed by the Britiſh undertakers of fiſheries to run off with their boats and veſſels in the fiſhing ſeaſon to remote parts of Newfoundland, where they ſold the fiſh, and, in order to elude the purſuits of juſtice, entered into other ſervices, whereby conſiderable property and many ſubjects were loſt to Great-Britain. Other fiſhermen uſed to ſell their employer's fiſh on the bank for rum, &c. to the New-England veſſels, whereby they rendered themſelves uſeleſs for the remainder of the ſeaſon, the conſequence of which to their employers was ruinous. The New-Englanders, not contented with their unlawful purchaſes, uſed to land upon the coaſt, and rob the flakes of the fiſh drying on them in the care of the women and children, and, preſuming on impunity, frequently carried their piracy to ſuch a pitch of audacity as to ſet fire to veſſels that were ſtranded, though they might be got off, merely in order to plunder the iron work. Another

thing ruinous to the fiſhery, and alſo a conſequence of the want of government, was the practice of throwing the refuſe of the fiſh overboard on the fiſhing grounds, which poiſons the fiſh, or drives them off the banks. This lazy practice had almoſt ruined the fiſhery, when the country belonged to the French, who made, and enforced, a law againſt it, whereby the fiſhery again revived.

Commodore Walker further repreſented, that the want of a cuſtom-houſe, and the want of legally-conſtituted authority in this ſequeſtered region, were inſuperable bars to the improvement of the ſoil, and to the extenſion of the fiſheries and the trade with the Indian natives. Therefor he recommended, that a ſub-governor ſhould be appointed for this diſtrict *, and ſupported by ſuch a force as might enable him to preſerve tranquillity and juſtice among the ſettlers, and that he ſhould have under his command a few cruiſing veſſels to enforce order and regulation, and prevent piracies and illicit trade among the fiſhermen during the ſeaſon. He alſo adviſed, that the ſame perſon, or another, ſhould act as deputy-collector of the cuſtoms for the convenience and diſpatch of trade.

For ſome years paſt the oppreſſion of the Britiſh merchants ſeems to have formed a part of the policy of the Portugueſe government, of which we have already ſeen many inſtances. This ſummer Mr. Connel, a Britiſh merchant, was impriſoned at Liſbon for refuſing to pay brokerage demanded of him, contrary to treaty, by a broker whom he had not employed.

The ſituation of the Eaſt-India Company's affairs being ſuch as to admit of a further augmentation of their dividend, it was declared for the July payment at the rate of *twelve per cent* per annum.

September 17th—An artificial navigable cut from the river Lea into the Thames at Limehouſe was completed, and began to be navigated by barges. As this new cut ſaves the long and tedious circumnavigation of the Iſle of dogs, its great utility to the inland trade of the country adjacent to the river Lea is obvious.

November 29th—The act prohibiting the exportation of bread and grain (excepting rice), and the diſtillation from wheat, was further continued. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 1.]

December 16th—For the better ſupply of ſeamen for the navy and merchant ſervice, merchant-ſhips were allowed to have three fourths of their crews foreigners till the 1st of February 1772. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 3.]

December 22d—The free importation of ſalted proviſions from Ireland and America was further continued till the 1st of March 1772. [11 *Geo. III. c.* 8.]

Lieutenant-governor Bull, of South Carolina ſtated the number of white people about 45,000, and of negroes about 80,000. The land

* This diſtrict is now a part of the new province of New-Brunſwick.

poſſeſſed by reſidents, though not all cultivated, was 2,591,762 acres, as returned in laſt year's tax. Since 1st January 1769 there were 5,438 negroes imported, and ſold for about £200,000 ſterling. Hemp was increaſing in quantity and improving in quality: this year 526,131 pounds of it, brought to Charleſtown, received the provincial bounty amounting to £2,500 ſterling; of which quantity nearly two fifths were worked up in the province. The interior part of the country, he ſays, is found to be well adapted to vines; and one poor German actually made eighty gallons of wine *. The tobacco and flour were in want of legal regulations.

Mr. Bull alſo reported the proſperous ſtate of a colony of French proteſtants ſettled in the province in the year 1764, and of a large body of Germans eſtabliſhed there in 1765 at the expenſe of a number of private gentlemen in London.

Governor Bruere of Bermuda this year ſtated the population of the iſlands under his command to be about 6,000 white people of all ſorts, and full as many, or more, negroes †. He obſerves, that in time of war they are wealthy, their veſſels, which ſail remarkably faſt, getting a preference everywhere for freight ‡, and alſo ſelling for high prices: but in time of peace they can ſcarcely ſell them for the coſt. He ſtates the 'ſmall exports' to conſiſt of ſawed ſtones for building, limes, onions, cabbages, and ducks, which they carry to Barbados, Antigua, &c. and their veſſels find employment by carrying paſſengers and goods among the Weſt-India iſlands ||. He very much regrets their neglect of raiſing corn, whence their whole caſh is carried off for that article, and, what is worſe, not by their own veſſels, but by North Americans, who bring it, by which means the ſupply is alſo precarious, and he apprehends,

* Mr. Collinſon, the celebrated naturaliſt, had before this time remarked, that the natural grapes of America were capable of making good wine, if properly managed; and he added, that if proper care were taken to improve the grape by cultivation, and the wine by a diligent and ſkilful proceſs in making it, America might become one of the moſt celebrated wine countries in the world.

† If this very ſmall tract of country conſiſting of chalk rock (which they work into pieces fit for building with a ſaw and a plane) in many places not even covered with ſoil, contain 12,000 people, white and black, it is probably the moſt populous part of the Britiſh dominions, excepting large towns; as there muſt be about one inhabitant for every acre, the whole country being only about 24 miles long, and from half a mile to three miles in breadth. A much lower, and apparently an accurate, ſtatement of the population was afterwards given by Governor Browne.

‡ In time of war other owners muſt give exorbitant wages to their ſeamen. The Bermudian owner, if he commands the veſſel himſelf, as many of them do, and is proprietor of four negro ſailors, pays no wages at all except to a mate.

|| He might have added—and to the continent of America. He ſays nothing of their wrecking, except incidentally noticing, that the people are accuſtomed to benefit by ſhipwrecks; nor of their catching turtle, which they carry to the Weſt-India iſlands and America.

Whales are ſometimes taken near Bermuda; but they are not very numerous, as appears by a duty or tax of £1 on each full-grown whale not being ſufficient to raiſe £100 a-year of additional ſalary to the governor. This whale-fiſhery is conducted at almoſt no expenſe in open boats manned by negroes.

The incidents of a whale-fiſhing adventure, and the beautiful appearance of the iſland, have been celebrated by Waller, who had never ſeen any other evergreen country, and who ſpent ſome weeks in the iſland, whereby the fame of this trifling ſpot has been raiſed almoſt above that of any of the Weſt-India iſlands. Such are the creative powers of poetry.

may ſome time ſtarve the people, and drive the negroes into rebellion. He propoſes the erection of a light-houſe, as a thing abſolutely neceſſary: and in time of war, he ſays, the iſlands ſhould never be without a frigate. He obſerves, that notwithſtanding the general poverty there is no money ſmaller than a half real, and he recommends the introduction of copper halfpence.

The governor of the Bahama iſlands ſuſpecting, that a great deal of illicit trade was going on at Turks iſlands, applied to Captain Wallace of the navy, who ſent Lieutenant Dundas in an armed ſchooner up to thoſe iſlands, where he ſeized a ſnow called the Friendſhip; and the ſame officer ſoon after ſeized a brig called the Edinburgh in the harbour of New-Providence: and both veſſels were condemned in the court of admiralty for taking onboard foreign produce and other goods prohibited by law at Turks iſlands.

Sir William Trelawney, governor of Jamaica, reported, that the county of Cornwall in the weſt end of the iſland was now ſo much improved as to make three ſevenths of the whole produce of the iſland. He alſo repreſented the proſperity of the north ſide of the iſland to be ſo much advanced by the great number of new plantations within ten miles of the ſea, and by the increaſe of commerce at the free ports of Montego bay and Lucea, as to be well worthy of the ſpecial protection of government by ſtationing ſome ſhips of war at Port Antonio. 'The almoſt 'total neglect of this place about the year 1748, it was ſuppoſed, was 'chiefly owing to the uncultivated condition of the parts about it, the 'people being then ſcarcely recovered from their fears of the rebellious 'negroes, and unwilling to riſque precarious ſettlements. It is ſaid 'moreover that the place was unhealthy, that his Majeſty's ſhips were 'with difficulty ſupplied with freſh proviſions, and that the communi-'cation by land with Port-Royal was extremely bad. But theſe objec-'tions are now in a great meaſure, if not totally, removed; for the ad-'joining country being now cleared, the rains are become leſs frequent, 'and the place as wholeſome as any other part of the iſland. Very 'large and fruitful pens are now in the neighbourhood, ſufficient to 'ſupply with vegetables and cattle any number of ſhips ſtationed there: 'and conſiderable grants of money have been made by the aſſembly, 'and expended in making good roads from that port to the ſouthern 'parts of the iſland.'

In conſequence of an importation from North-America to Jamaica of Spaniſh gold coins, which had been mutilated to, or originally manufactured of, about three fourths of the real value (the irregular form of the Spaniſh hammered money encouraging ſuch frauds) the aſſembly of Jamaica paſſed a ſevere act againſt clipping, diminiſhing, or forging, the foreign coins currrent in the iſland, or importing ſuch deficient coins.

In the later end of the year the thriving new ſugar colony of Toba-

go was thrown into the greateſt conſternation by the revolt of ſome of the negro ſlaves. A military force was immediately ſent from Grenada by General Melville, the governor-general of the ceded iſlands, by means of which, and ſome aſſiſtance given by Captain Reynolds in the Quebec frigate, the inſurgents were ſoon reduced, the number of whom, it was found, after all, did not much exceed thirty.

The iſland of Grenada was alſo alarmed by an attack of the maroon negroes, who lived concealed in the woods in the heart of the iſland: but no conſiderable damage was done.

The Caribs of St. Vincents about the ſame time made an attack upon the houſes and works erected by ſome white people, who had intruded upon the lands occupied by them.

An Account of the value of the exports from the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands in the courſe of this year is here inſerted, in order to afford a compariſon with a more ample account of their produce and trade, which will be given under the year 1788 *.

Exports from	Great Britain and Ireland.	North America.	Other Islands.	Africa.	Total value in ſterl. money.
Jamaica to - -	1,391,210	146,324	595		1,538,129
Virgin islands -	61,696	10,133			71,829
Anguilla - -	3,800	2,057			5,857
St. Chriſtophers -	367,074	59,794	519	68	427,455
Nevis - - -	43,827	14,155			57,982
Antigua - - -	430,210	35,551	230		465,991
Montſerrat - -	89,907	12,633			102,540
Dominica - -	46,365	16,496			62,861
St. Vincents - -	79,126	13,375			92,501
Grenada - -	454,977	51,061	672		506,710
Barbados - -	311,012	119,828	1,173		432,013
Bahamas - -					5,919
Bermudas - -					8,013
Totals - -	3,279,204	481,407	3,189	68	3,777,800

Tobago alſo exported ſome produce, the value of which is not aſcertained: it was, however, but trifling, the iſland being then but in its infancy with reſpect to cultivation.

The total value of the woollen manufactures exported from Great Britain at this time was above four millions of ſterling money: and it has ſince increaſed conſiderably.

The groſs produce of the duty on hops this year amounted to £101,131 : 2 : 7.

By Mr Swallow's report of the trade at Peterſburg it appears, that 306 Britiſh veſſels, and 229 of all other nations, ſailed with cargoes from that port in the courſe of this year.

* I have compiled this account from the information collected by the induſtry of Doctor Campbell in his accounts of the ſeveral iſlands. [*Political ſurvey of Great Britain, v.* ii, *pp.* 658 *et ſeqq.*

By reports tranſmitted from Hamburgh by Mr. Woodford it appears, that in the courſe of the year the goods imported into that city from the Britiſh dominions in 200 veſſels, whereof 163 were Britiſh, amounted to £1,020,251 : 5 : 4 ſterling; and the imports from France in 177 veſſels, whereof 19 were Britiſh, and *not one French*, amounted to } 945,467 : 4 : 0

Mr Woodford obſerved, that though the number of veſſels from Britiſh ports was fewer by 16 than laſt year, he believed that deficiency was fully balanced by the greater burthen of the ſhips of this year; and that, ſo far from there being any decreaſe in the trade of thoſe ports which ſent large ſhips with valuable cargoes, there were five ſhips more from London, and 10 ſhips more from Glaſgow, than in the year 1769.

He complained, that the merchants of Hamburgh, by means of the great numbers of Hamburghers ſettled as merchants in London, were enabled to monopolize the carrying trade between the two ports, which they confined to thirty large ſhips of from 300 to 600 tuns, belonging to Hamburgh, at ſuch exorbitant freights as abſolutely prevented ſeveral bulky articles from being ſhipped; while only one Engliſhman, Mr. Newby, ventured to employ any veſſels in that trade; and he had three good ſhips in it.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,898	veſſels, of the computed burthen of	593,962 tuns,
and of Scotland	1,509		88,849
Total	9,407		682,811

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year,

was from the cuſtom-houſe in London	-	£2,537,143	18	8
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh	-	9,000	0	0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain		£2,546,143	18	8

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

13,350 pounds of gold, value	-	£623,778	15	0
and 22 pounds of ſilver,	- -	68	4	0
		£623,846	19	0.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1769 to Chriſtmas 1770, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£68,449 13 7		£571,003 6 9	
Canaries	10,656 8 9	£815 13 11	41,352 11 10	
Denmark, &c.	76,898 17 2	31,469 14 5	167,257 4 11	£21,459 17 9
East country	175,552 15 6		80,329 0 8	
East India	1,941,627 4 0		1,082,030 8 10	
Flanders	113,860 11 7	174 2 8	678,286 12 1	67,238 5 11
France	65,975 19 11	4,306 1 2	156,509 6 7	346,736 12 2
Germany	684,463 8 11	24,824 16 6	1,272,569 0 4	85,044 4 8
Greenland	22,626 6 1	2,983 6 5	29 6 4	
Holland	352,535 6 4	90,598 9 11	1,766,333 10 2	302,413 7 9
Ireland	1,214,398 4 5	166,500 9 7	2,125,466 12 8	445,891 18 7
Mann		359 2 11		265 16 2
Italy	815,944 17 2	3,926 18 10	756,385 11 3	27,421 18 8
Madeira	4,935 12 6	357 10 8	26,500 15 3	218 16 3
Poland		11,949 11 2		1,459 4 3
Prussia		8,382 18 6		438 9 1
Portugal	329,663 3 4	9,563 0 10	534,708 19 1	1,614 15 0
Russia	1,046,710 5 11	117,716 0 2	145,743 6 9	1,456 3 8
Spain	505,267 13 2	6,278 5 11	887,099 1 4	12,718 6 7
Straits	7,083 11 5		148,813 18 3	
Gibraltar		13 14 9		239 15 0
Sweden	136,616 6 0	22,375 17 3	58,576 4 8	8,838 4 9
Turkey	164,366 3 6		22,032 15 8	
Venice	82,963 19 7		71,541 5 4	
Guernsey, &c.	47,542 14 5	522 11 3	52,608 5 9	
America in general		486,376 18 11		339,471 7 1
Hudson's Bay	10,715 0 7		4,623 2 1	
Newfoundland	45,108 11 0		91,058 0 0	
Cape Breton	197 4 4			
Quebec	40,703 6 7		231,626 6 6	
Nova-Scotia	7,324 7 4		45,092 4 10	
New-England	148,011 14 9		394,451 7 5	
New-York	69,882 10 5		475,991 12 0	
Pennsylvania	28,109 5 11		134,881 15 5	
Virginia and Maryland	435,094 9 7		717,782 17 3	
Carolina	278,907 14 0		146,273 17 0	
Georgia	55,532 7 5		56,193 16 7	
Florida	3,688 3 0		39,857 12 11	
West Indies in general		221,387 12 5		64,322 9 5
Anguilla	167 17 11			
Antigua	349,102 1 8		112,533 2 0	
Barbados	283,455 19 1		203,568 9 8	
Bermuda			9,705 15 6	
Dominica	136,152 18 7		34,209 7 10	
Grenada	433,421 12 1		136,792 12 8	
Jamaica	1,274,807 13 6		558,219 10 6	
Montserrat	83,947 9 1		19,297 16 5	
Nevis	97,152 19 5		17,307 10 3	
St. Chriſtophers	324,287 7 8		96,834 10 1	
St. Vincents	81,965 18 3		42,821 13 11	
Tobago	2,323 11 10		19,123 4 9	
Tortola	43,230 4 4		16,985 12 9	
New-Providence	6,387 11 10		6,060 7 7	
St. Croix	21,386 12 9		1,069 5 3	
St. Euſtathius	476 18 11			
Foreign West-Indies & Bay of Honduras	87,256 19 2	2,486 10 8	9,115 1 9	668 2 4
Imp. and exp. of Eng.	12,216,937 14 3		14,266,653 17 5	
Imp. and exp. of Scot.	1,213,360 8 10	1,213,360 8 10	1,727,917 15 1	1,727,917 15 1
Total, Great Britain	13,430,298 3 1		15,994,571 12 6	

1771, January 4th—The lord mayor of London ordered the meal-weighers of the corn market in Mark lane to ſtick up in a conſpicuous place an exact account of the quantities and prices of the wheat ſold and the names of the buyers. This regulation gave great offence to the dealers, millers, &c. but was highly applauded by the public, who hoped it would contribute greatly to prevent engroſſing the moſt neceſſary article of ſubſiſtence.

April 12th—The increaſed number of the people in the metropolis, and probably alſo the increaſed luxury of the people, rendering the 800 hackney coaches, hitherto licenced, too few to accommodate the public, 200 more coaches were licenced to ply, they paying, as the former ones, a weekly duty of five ſhillings each for their licences. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 24.]

The important fiſhery of the River Tweed was regulated; and no perſon is allowed to kill any ſpecies of ſalmon in that river or its branches between the 10th of October and the 12th of January, nor at any time of the year between twelve o'clock on Saturday night and two o'clock on Monday morning. Taking, or even having in poſſeſſion, the ſpawn, fry, or young brood, of the fiſh between the 1st of April and the 1st of June was alſo made puniſhable by fine, as were alſo laying dirt or rubbiſh in the river, and diſturbing the fiſh when entering the river. [11 *Geo. III, c*, 27.]

The conſequence of the irregularity, or ſtoppage, in paying the bounty on the herring fiſhery in Scotland, while it was regularly paid in the ports of England, whereby the number of buſſes fitted out from the Scottiſh ports, which in the year 1767 was 263, was reduced in 1770 to 19, has already been noticed under the year 1766, when the ſtoppage began. For the ſummer fiſhing of this year (1771) there were only 4 buſſes cleared out, ſo that the fiſhery might be ſaid to be annihilated, or rather abandoned to foreigners, who were enriched by vaſt ſums received for herrings caught in the Scottiſh ſeas, great quantities of which found their way to our own Weſt-India iſlands.

So far as the regular payment of the bounty could operate to revive this periſhing trade, it was evident, that a ſmaller bounty, regularly paid, would be preferable to a larger one with a delay of ſeveral years. The proprietors of the buſſes, therefor, made a propoſal to government, which was paſſed into a law, to the following effect.

May 8th—A bounty of *thirty ſhillings* per tun, to commence on the 22d of October 1771, and to continue for ſeven years, was granted to all decked veſſels from 20 to 80 tuns burthen, built in Britain after the 21st of January 1760, and manned and navigated agreeable to the exiſting laws, which are fitted out for, and employed in, the herring fiſhery. Every veſſel of 20 tuns is to carry ſix men, and larger veſſels to have one man for every five tuns above twenty; and to carry an appointed quantity

of nets, ſalt, and other fiſhing ſtores, proportioned to the tunnage. Every veſſel intended for the ſummer fiſhery muſt be at the ſtation or rendezvous on or before the 22d of June, and muſt not begin to fiſh before the 24th; after which they are to continue fiſhing till the 12th of October, unleſs they ſhall have completed their loading ſooner. Thoſe intended for the winter fiſhery muſt be at the rendezvous on or before the 1ſt of October, and continue fiſhing till the 11th of January, unleſs completely loaded ſooner. The ſtations appointed for the veſſels to aſſemble at previous to the commencement of the fiſhery, and for their return from it, were Yarmouth in Norfolk, Leith, Inverneſs, Braſſey ſound, Kirkwall, Oban, Campbelltown, and Whitehaven: and the bounty in Scotland was no longer to be dependent on the produce of a particular fund, but to be punctually paid from the whole revenue of the kingdom, as it is in England. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 31.]

An act for the keeping and carriage of gun-powder, among other precautions, directs, that, for the ſecurity of the great number of veſſels lying in the River Thames, no veſſel ſhall have onboard above 25 pounds of gun-powder, while ſhe is above Blackwall. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 33.]

The exportation of live cattle and hogs, and alſo of the fleſh of thoſe animals, was prohibited, except to Gibralter, Minorca, and ſuch of the colonies as have been uſually ſupplied with proviſions from Great Britain. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

For the encouragement of the whale fiſhery, the importation of the fins, oil, and blubber, of whales, and the oil, ſkins, and other produce of ſeals, and other creatures caught in the Greenland ſeas, by veſſels, of which the captain, and at leaſt one third of the men, are Britiſh, was permitted free of any duty. Alſo from 25th December 1771, every Britiſh ſhip, of ſtrength ſufficient to encounter the Greenland ſeas, and manned and provided in a manner proper for the whale fiſhery, that proceeds in the proper ſeaſon to proſecute that fiſhery in the Greenland ſeas, Davis's ſtraits, or the adjacent ſeas, and returns to the port whence ſhe ſailed, is entitled to a bounty of *forty ſhillings* a tun on every voyage for *five years*, to *thirty ſhillings* for a ſecond term of *five years*, and to *twenty ſhillings* for a third term of five years: the whole bounties granted by this act expiring on the 25th of December 1786: every veſſel of 200 tuns is obliged to carry *four boats* and 30 men, including the maſter and ſurgeon; and every ſhip from 200 to 400 tuns to carry *one boat* and 6 men for every 50 tuns above 200; and every ſhip to have *one apprentice* for every 50 tuns of her burthen, who is to be reckoned part of her compliment of men.

As doubts had ariſen, whether it was lawful to inſure the bounty, which the veſſel is entitled to in the event of her arrival, it was declared lawful to inſure ſuch bounty, and to recover it from the underwriters, if the veſſel be loſt.

The ſame bounties were alſo granted to Britiſh-American veſſels, not more than two years old, proceeding, after due inſpection, from their ports in America before the firſt day of May for the Greenland ſeas, and thence to ſome port in Britain with the produce of their fiſhery.

For the encouragement of the whale fiſhery in the Gulf of St. Laurence, and on the American coaſt, whale fins taken by Britiſh ſubjects, were permitted to be imported till the 25th of December 1786, in veſſels navigated according to law, paying no other duty than that called the old ſubſidy. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 38.]

While this act was in contemplation, a retroſpect of the Greenland whale fiſhery ſince its revival in this kingdom was produced, in order to evince the propriety of continuing the bounty for ſuch a term of years as might indemnify the merchants for adapting their veſſels, and laying in the neceſſary ſtores, for ſuch an expenſive undertaking: from that retroſpect, together with the more accurate information furniſhed by the cuſtom-houſes of England and Scotland, I have drawn up the following account.

The Greenland fiſhery, after having been many years abandoned by the Engliſh, was revived in the year 1725 by the South-ſea company, who carried it on with very great loſs to themſelves till the year 1733.

For the encouragement of adventurers, the government then offered a bounty of 20*s* a tun, which in ſeven years after was raiſed to 30*s*: yet there were only from three to ſix veſſels employed in the fiſhery from the year 1733 till 1749.

In the year 1750 the bounty of 40*s* a tun took place; and after that time the veſſels which ſailed from England and Scotland for the Greenland ſeas, their tunnage, and the bounties paid to them in each year, were as follows.

FROM ENGLAND.				FROM SCOTLAND.				
Vessels.	Tunnage.	Bounty paid.		Years.	Vessels.	Tunnage.	Bounty paid.	
19	6,264	£10,507	3 3	1750	1	333	£666	0 0
23	7,360	16,530	19 10	1751	6	1,933	3,866	2 11
30	9,871	17,231	9 5	1752	10	3,137	6,274	2 11
35	11,814	27,693	0 11	1753	14	4,294	8,589	5 0
52	17,235	31,328	6 9	1754	15	4,680	9,361	5 0
66	21,293	45,634	18 8	1755	16	4,964	9,929	5 0
67	21,328	42,103	1 0	1756	16	4,964	9,315	5 0
55	17,221	34,450	0 8	1757	15	4,530	8,567	13 4
52	15,399	27,006	6 1	1758	15	4,499	8,271	13 4
34	10,337	19,273	18 1	1759	15	4,479	8,959	13 4
40	12,082	20,540	5 6	1760	14	4,238	8,477	13 4
31	9,789	19,247	15 8	1761	14	4,238	8,477	13 4
28	8,877	13,358	6 9	1762	14	4,238	8,045	13 4
30	9,416	18,465	15 9	1763	10	3,109	5,649	0 0
32	10,261	19,463	16 1	1764	10	3,140	6,281	0 0
33	10,099	18,748	17 9	1765	8	2,559	5,119	0 0
35	10,015	19,947	2 5	1766	9	2,797	5,595	0 0
39	12,284	24,537	9 2	1767	9	2,797	5,595	0 0
41	12,802	24,026	18 1	1768	9	2,797	5,595	0 0
44	13,471	24,935	12 11	1769	9	2,797	5,595	0 0
50	14,775	29,240	18 11	1770	9	2,797	5,595	0 0

The fiſhery from Great Britain is carried on by ſhips which are, upon an average, of 300 tons burthen *, and carry 54 men, of whom 6 are apprentices, and is thus a very great nurſery of the moſt hardy ſeamen. The American fiſhery is carried on by ſhalops, carrying about 6 men, and in a great meaſure by the Eſkimeaux Indians, from whom the American coloniſts purchaſe the oil and fins, which are much inferior to thoſe brought from the Greenland ſeas, the oil being adulterated with a mixture of ſeal and cod oil, and the fins brittle. Beſides, all the oil and fins which can be ſupplied by America, though they were of the beſt quality, are far ſhort of the demand: and thence it follows, that, if the Britiſh fiſhery is given up, as it muſt be if the bounty is diſcontinued, we muſt depend almoſt entirely upon the Dutch, who may charge what prices they pleaſe, (and in fact they have charged as high as £700 a tun for whale fins) which muſt make a prodigious annual drain of money from this country †.

Such were the facts and the arguments which induced the legiſlature to continue the bounty on the whale fiſhery.

The crime of counterfeiting the copper money of the realm, which had hitherto been puniſhed only as a miſdemeanour, was now made felony. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 40.]

The importation of all kinds of unmanufactured wood of the growth or produce of America, was permitted free of duty; and the importers of ſome parcels of Honduras mahogany, landed after the 1ſt of July 1770, were warranted to receive back the duties they had paid on them.

Goods from the Levant liable to infection, if imported without clean bills of health, were prohibited from being landed in Great Britain, Ireland, or any of the adjacent iſlands. In order to remove the doubt, whether raw ſilk and mohair yarn, ſhipped in places ſubject to the Grand Signior, and landed at any port of the Mediterranean for the purpoſe of being aired, are to be conſidered as imported from ſuch intermediate port, it was enacted, that goods ſo circumſtanced are to be admitted to entry as coming from the port where they were firſt ſhipped. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 41.]

In order to reduce the price of ſtaves and heading, the importation of them from America was encouraged by bounties proportioned to their ſize, to commence on the 1ſt of January 1772. The ports appointed for importation upon this bounty, were London, Southampton, Poole, Exeter, Plymouth, Briſtol, Liverpool, Whitehaven, Glaſgow, Leith, Newcaſtle, Hull, and Yarmouth. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 50.]

* The total tunnage of the 32 ſhips from England in 1764 was 10,262 tuns, and that of the 50 ſhips in 1770 was 14,778. The blubber imported by the 32 ſhips was 670½ tuns, and by the 50 ſhips 2,238 tuns.

† About this time there was a very great conſumption of whale bone, or fins, in very ſtiff ſtays for the ladies. That rage has now greatly abated: thanks to the writings of Doctor Buchan, and the good ſenſe of the ladies.

The ſeveral acts—for regulating laſtage and balaſtage in the River Thames;—for admitting rum, and other ſpirits, imported from the Britiſh ſugar iſlands, to be ſtored without paying down the exciſe duty;—for the puniſhment of perſons armed or diſguiſed, acting in defiance of the revenue laws;—for preventing the deſtruction of the roads within ten miles of London by overloading waggons or carts;—and for exporting barley (or bigg) from Orkney to Portugal, were continued for limited times. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 51.]

The harbours in the iſle of Mann were formerly ſupported by duties levied under the authority of the ſtatutes of the iſland upon the contraband trade. Theſe, ſince the ſovereignty of the iſland has been in the king's hands, having entirely ceaſed, the harbours of the iſland were conſequently now in a ruinous condition, and unfit to afford a refuge to ſhips taken by ſudden or croſs gales of wind. Therefor, as a fund for their improvement, certain regulated harbour-dues were allowed to be taken from all veſſels arriving in the iſland; and alſo ſmall duties upon ſpirits, tobacco, tea, coffee, wine, and other foreign goods, except ſalt.

The bounties granted by a former act to the boats employed in the herring fiſhery on the coaſt of Mann, and on the linen manufacture, being made payable out of duties ariſing from the herring fiſhery itſelf, were found ineffectual, only about a tenth part of the fiſhermen in the iſland having conformed to the regulations required, and they were therefor repealed; but the duties were continued, and added to the funds for the reparation of the harbours. [11 *Geo. III, c.* 52.]

Several acts were paſſed for improvements in various parts of London and the ſuburbs; as alſo in Wincheſter, Worceſter, Edinburgh, Leith, Wakefield, &c. Many acts for inland navigation, and for roads, in various parts of the united kingdoms were alſo paſſed in the courſe of this ſeſſion.

Among theſe it ought not to be omitted, as one of many proofs of the increaſing opulence of the commercial town of Liverpool, that a theatre-royal, ſanctioned by act of parliament, was now erected in it.

The governor of New-York was authoriſed, by inſtructions from home, to grant a leaſe to Mr. Philipſe of all royal mines of gold and ſilver, diſcovered, or to be diſcovered, within the manor of Philipſeburgh in that province.

In conſequence of an application to the king by the royal ſociety, Lieutenant Cook (who has already been noticed for his accurate charts of Newfoundland) ſailed from Plymouth in Auguſt 1768, in order to make, in conjunction with Mr. Green of the royal obſervatory at Greenwich, an accurate obſervation on the tranſit of Venus over the ſun in a ſouthern latitude. After making the obſervation on the tranſit on the 4th of June 1769 at the iſland of Otaheitè, in the courſe of his

voyage he diſcovered many iſlands in the great Pacific ocean hitherto totally unknown to any European, made obſervations on others that were erroneouſly deſcribed, and particularly explored the coaſts of the great iſland (or continent) of New-Holland, and completed the circumnavigation of the globe by returning round the Cape of Good Hope to England, where he arrived in July this year. Mr. Banks and Doctor Solander were induced by their thirſt of knowlege to partake of the hardſhips and the glory of this *voyage of ſcience*.

The indigo made in the province of Eaſt-Florida was now of ſo good a quality, that ſome of what was brought home this year ſold by public ſale at Garraway's coffeehouſe ſo high as 8/9 a pound.

The Eaſt-India company appointed their midſummer divided to be at the rate of *twelve and a half* per cent per annum, being the higheſt rate now allowed by act of parliament.

September—The following was ſaid to be the ſtate of the company's trading ſtock at this time.

After all debts are paid, a balance of caſh, -	£ 220,000
Goods imported laſt year, in the warehouſes, -	1,500,000
Cargoes of 18 ſhips arrived this year, by eſtimate, -	2,300,000
Cargoes of 11 ſhips dayly expected, by eſtimate, -	1,500,000
	£5,500,000

To which may be added the cargoes of 37 ſhips of laſt year for India, and the goods provided in India and China for their homeward cargoes.

December 3d—The king of Spain iſſued an ordinance, very prejudicial to the manufactures and commerce of Great Britain, wherein he prohibited the importation of cotton velvets, and all ſtuffs having cotton in their fabric, the uſe of which he ordered to be totally laid aſide in twenty-two months.

A new cement for the bottoms of ſhips, ſaid to be proof againſt the worms, was tried at Chatham, and approved.

Mr. Bernieres, director of the bridges and cauſeways in France, invented a boat incapable of being ſunk or overſet, fit for inland navigation, coaſting voyages, and ſhort paſſages by ſea.

By accounts received from Grenada, the following was the ſtate of the infant colony of Tobago on the 25th of June this year.

There were 243 white people, and 4,716 negro ſlaves, of whom 547 were eſteemed worthy of being truſted with arms; and there were beſides 125 runaway negroes, of whom only 19 were thought dangerous. The number of acres of cleared land was 7,171, and of land in canes 2,347. The produce of this year was 724 hogſheads of ſugar, and 453 puncheons of rum. The produce of the enſuing year was expected to be 3,372 hogſheads of ſugar and 1,850 puncheons of rum.

December 27th—The greateſt part of the town of St. Georges in Grenada was deſtroyed by fire. The damage was eſtimated at £200,000, of which £60,000 were inſured in London. If it had happened at almoſt any other ſeaſon, the damage muſt have been much greater, this being the ſeaſon, when there is the leaſt produce in the ſtores.

The following account of the linen cloth and linen yarn exported from Ireland, taken at intervals of ten years from the commencement of the eighteenth century, and thenceforth annually, is extracted from an account laid before the Iriſh parliament by Mr. Archdall, inſpector to the truſtees of the linen manufacture, in order to ſhow the progreſs of the ſtaple manufacture of that kingdom.

Years ending Ladyday.	Linen Cloth. Quantity. Yards.	Average Price.	Value. £.	s.	d.	Linen Yarn. Quantity. cwt.	qr.	lb.	Value. £.	s.	d.
1710	1,688,574	1/3	105,537	17	6	7,975	2	12	47,853	12	0
1720	2,437,984	1/	121,899	4	0	15,722	1	11	94,334	1	0
1730	4,136,203 5/6	1/	206,810	3	6	10,088	1	9	55,485	15	9
1740	6,627,771¼	1/4	441,851	8	8	18,542	3	8	111,256	18	0
1750	11,200,460	1/2	653,369	3	4	22,373	0	5	134,238	5	0
1760	13,375,456½		891,697	1	8	31,042	1	15	186,254	5	0
1761	12,048,881¼		803,258	15	4	39,699	2	25	238,198	5	0
1762	15,559,676	1/4	1,037,311	14	8	35,950	1	25	215,702	15	0
1763	16,013,105¾		1,067,540	7	0	34,468	0	7	206,808	7	0
1764	15,101,081¼		1,006,738	15	8	31,715	1	25	190,292	15	0
1765	14,355,205		1,079,640	7	6	26,127	0	0	156,762	0	0
1766	17,892,102¼		1,341,907	13	4	35,018	1	0	210,109	10	0
1767	20,148,170¼		1,511,112	15	4	30,274	3	0	181,648	10	0
1768	18,490,019¼	1/6	1,386,751	9	3	32,590	1	25	195,542	15	0
1769	17,796,705		1,334,302	17	6	37,037	0	20	222,223	0	0
1770	20,560,754		1,542,056	11	0	33,417	0	15	200,502	15	0
1771	25,376,808		1,903,260	12	0	34,166	0	15	204,996	15	0

The following view of the total quantities of Britiſh and Iriſh linens exported from England, from the commencement of the firſt bounty on exportation, ſhows the progreſs of the trade and the effect of the bounties upon it.

		Yards British Linen.	Yards Irish Linen.	Bounty. £	s.	d.
Years of war.	1743	52,779	40,007	383	10	8
	1744	49,521	28,255	311	7	9
	1745 *	56,240	101,928	747	17	6
	1746	175,928	695,002	4,188	10	9
	1747	238,014	595,277	4,290	12	0
	1748	330,747	723,663	5,594	1	10
Peace.	1749	414,834	965,897	8,015	1	4
	1750	588,874	742,032	8,308	16	8
	1751	527,976	854,490	8,617	8	2
	1752	437,277	968,319	8,775	13	10
	1753	641,510	1,039,967	10,058	16	5
	1754	1,382,796	843,973	13,905	7	11
	1755	41,367	51,040	577	11	0

* This year the bounty was raiſed to three halfpence per yard, and extended to all linens from 5d to 1/6 a yard.

		Yards British Linen.	Yards Irish Linen.	Bounty.
Years of war.	1756	394,746	719,135	£6,932 11 8
	1757	1,016,754	2,005,375	18,847 3 8
	1758	1,942,667	2,171,109	25,690 15 4
	1759	1,693,087	1,956,572	22,807 11 1
	1760	1,413,602	2,352,585	23,538 13 1
	1761	1,272,985	1,819,329	19,324 11 3
	1762	1,762,643	2,930,476	29,331 19 10
Peace.	1763	2,308,310	2,588,564	30,604 6 9
	1764	2,134,733	1,858,780	24,863 9 3
	1765	2,095,033	1,663,670	23,497 10 4
	1766	2,236,086	1,770,634	25,042 0 0
	1767	2,444,181	2,227,124	29,182 6 11
	1768	2,687,457	2,270,160	30,985 2 1
	1769	3,056,950	1,855,159	30,699 3 5
	1770 *	3,216,506	2,707,482	36,972 18 4
	1771	4,411,040	3,450,224	44,738 8 10

Unluckily I have not materials at hand to complete the linen exports of all Britain by adding thoſe of Scotland. As a ſpecimen I ſhall here give thoſe of Glaſgow, the principal port of foreign trade, for the year 1771, from *Gibſon's Hiſtory of Glaſgow, pp.* 213-234.

British linen -	2,175,431 yards.
Irish linen -	731,012
Checks and ſtripes -	362,894
Kenting (or Ghenting) -	46,385
Printed - -	80,280¼ ſquare yards.
Total British and Irish linens -	3,396,002¼

Beſides ſome German and Ruſſia linens.

Of theſe 51,837 yards were exported to Ireland, while at the ſame time 1,100,291 yards were imported from that country; a proof that manufactures, which are ſometimes too inconſiderately ſuppoſed hurtful rivals, may be mutually beneficial.

In order to make the view of the linen trade more complete, ſubjoined is a ſtate of the imports of foreign linens in England for ten years back, with the amount of the duties paid on them.

	British yards.	Duties.
1762	18,827,853¼	£134,031 14 1
1763	26,634,851	185,476 19 4
1764	28,092,215¼	201,711 3 7
1765	25,497,795¼	182,997 0 11
1766	25,624,107¼	184,057 1 2
1767	21,054,411	164,532 8 10
1768	23,112,349	199,467 0 10
1769	25,431,162¼	217,386 9 0
1770*	27,101,343¼	221,333 8 9
1771	28,243,121¼	230,951 14 2 †

* The bounty of three halfpence was now extended to ſheetings and table-linens, to be computed by the ſquare yard; and a new bounty of one halfpenny per yard was allowed on Britiſh checks and ſtripes from 7*d* to 1*ſ*6 a yard.

† Mr. Paine the governor of the bank of England, when examined in the houſe of commons on the ſubject of foreign linens, ſtated the imports of theſe years ſomewhat higher than they are here given: and he made the average quantity from the year 1752 to 1756 inclufive to be 31,000,000 of yards annually.

An attentive perusal of the foregoing details may afford ample matter for reflection; and it may perhaps appear doubtful, if all the home-made linens of the three kingdoms much exceeded the quantity of foreign linens, imported under the disadvantage of such heavy duties *.

Mr. Swallow, the British consul at Petersburg, in his periodical report, stated, that 363 British vessels, and 255 of all other nations, had sailed from that port in the course of this year. Their cargoes consisted of iron, hemp, flax, hides, bristles, isinglass, tallow, soap, hemp-seed, and lintseed oils, wax, wax and tallow candles, caviary, cordage, tobacco, leather, feathers, wheat, flour, tar, great variety of linens, ducks, drills, and sailcloths, deals, and the skins of hares, bears, squirrels, martins, sables, and foxes.

The Dutch were very successful in their Greenland fishery this year. They had 120 ships employed, which brought home 500 whales, and 14,320 barrels of oil. Three ships were lost, after having caught 15 whales.

By an account laid before the house of commons it appeared, that from the year 1750 to the year 1771, both years inclusive, there were 29,131 horses exported from England, of which 7,783 during the war, and 21,348 before and after it in years of peace.

The quantity of tobacco imported in Glasgow this year was above 46 millions of pounds, and the quantity exported nearly 44 millions, besides several cargoes belonging to the Glasgow merchants, ordered to proceed direct from Virginia and Maryland to London †.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,645	vessels of the reputed burthen of		577,176 tuns.
and of Scotland	1,503	-	-	88,452
Total	9,148	-	-	665,628

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	British.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tuns.	Vessels.	Tuns.	Vessels.	Tuns.
Inward -	7,380	732,309	1,171	139,164	8,551	871,473
Outward -	9,542	875,892	562	66,556	10,104	942,448

* I should certainly run a great risk, if I were to presume to say, that it is not altogether unworthy of consideration—What would be the consequence to our home manufactures in general, and to our export trade, if the importation of foreign linens were entirely, or nearly, free of duty? The reader will see some opinions, though perhaps not quite disinterested, on that subject in the year 1774.

† The tobacco trade of Glasgow for this year is given, not as being remarkably great or small, but as being the principal article of the imports and exports of that city, whereof Gibson in his *History of Glasgow* [*pp.* 213-235] has given a minute detail for this year. I find, however, that the importation of this year was the largest that was ever made in the Clyde, except that of the year 1775.

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London, - £2,638,129 8 4
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh, - 4,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain, £2,642,129 8 4

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of this year 13,650 pounds of gold, value - - - £637,796 5 0
and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1770 to Chriſtmas 1771, was as follows.

	Imported into		Exported from	
Countries, &c.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£97,486 19 3		£712,538 7 4	
Canaries	6,803 18 10		23,825 9 8	
Denmark, &c.	83,711 6 4	£31,744 14 6	152,340 0 5	£29,750 6 6
East country	195,357 0 2		95,961 19 11	
East-India	1,882,139 5 9		1,184,824 13 11	
Flanders	142,138 2 6		861,777 16 7	92,667 5 5
France	51,645 8 11	2,879 7 10	146,128 3 2	355,991 18 6
Germany	765,774 2 0	26,134 10 8	1,316,492 1 4	97,027 6 6
Greenland	13,803 5 10	646 14 8	10 6 3	
Holland	428,080 1 7	121,930 10 10	1,585,307 16 0	383,272 5 1
Ireland	1,380,737 14 11	173,980 2 8	1,983,818 17 6	432,366 16 3
Mann		250 8 4		308 9 0
Italy	947,138 12 8	3,237 12 8	782,582 15 7	8,727 2 11
Madeira	2,067 18 2	56 1 1	11,213 17 9	
Poland		13,174 18 9		653 4 8
Pruſſia		8,721 19 10		5 4 0
Portugal	354,631 10 7	17,136 6 8	716,122 3 5	1,270 2 0
Ruſſia	1,274,620 12 0	123,504 12 3	150,159 16 6	1,805 6 5
Spain	568,323 11 3	9,230 0 8	1,224,811 11 10	9,244 16 7
Straits	3,604 13 6		153,323 16 11	
Gibraltar		2 14 3		755 16 9
Sweden	157,851 10 1	26,723 8 3	64,180 0 1	5,107 7 5
Turkey	100,443 2 9		20,573 15 3	
Venice	83,335 0 2		73,956 18 1	
Guernſey, &c.	56,802 13 11	1,735 0 3	58,565 7 4	60 0 0
America in general		611,583 1 2		375,510 15 8
Hudſon's bay	9,225 18 0		5,822 1 8	
Newfoundland	49,424 18 8		89,394 1 7	
Cape Breton	14 9 5			
Quebec	37,286 12 8		170,962 8 11	
Nova-Scotia	3,451 14 3		51,581 12 8	
New-England	150,381 17 2		1,420,119 1 1	
New-York	95,875 8 11		653,021 7 6	
Pennſylvania	31,615 19 9		728,744 19 10	
Virginia and Maryland	577,848 16 6		920,326 3 8	
Carolina	420,311 14 8		409,169 9 4	
Georgia	63,810 10 9		70,493 19 3	
Florida	21,856 11 11		66,647 9 11	
Weſt-Indies in general		213,656 16 9		60,922 12 2
Antigua	180,923 3 0		118,152 10 11	
Barbados	163,053 1 4		120,011 0 3	
Bermuda	836 8 3		8,045 15 9	

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Dominica	170,623 19 3		55,612 2 3	
Grenada	361,839 10 7		138,431 6 6	
Jamaica	1,261,675 7 9		494,888 0 10	
Montserrat	63,034 4 8		15,642 0 6	
Nevis	67,291 3 2		19,751 7 1	
St. Christophers	268,276 16 8		95,442 17 10	
St. Vincents	123,919 4 5		35,200 1 11	
Tobago	7,091 2 7		28,610 14 11	
Tortola	41,466 4 1		20,969 5 0	
New-Providence	7,837 0 3			
St. Croix	4,685 16 2			
St. Thomas	447 7 1			
St. Eustathius	1,406 2 11			
Foreign West-Indies and Bay of Honduras	39,988 0 9		4,301 0 2	1,887 7 5
Imp. and exp. of England	12,821,995 16 9		17,161,146 14 2	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	1,386,329 1 10	1,386,329 1 10	1,857,334 3 3	1,857,334 3 3
Total, Great Britain	14,208,324 18 7		19,018,480 17 5	

1772—This winter the Dutch were in the greateſt diſtreſs for want of corn and cattle, having received little or no ſupply from Poland, the uſual great granary of the north (which was now ravaged and deſolated by the inroads of the neighbouring powers) or from any other of the corn or paſture countries; whereupon the ſmall quantity of proviſions they poſſeſſed, or obtained, roſe to a moſt enormous price. Such, notwithſtanding the opinion of a very great political economiſt, muſt ſometimes be the conſequence of a nation depending entirely upon others for the firſt of neceſſaries, even though there ſhould be the moſt unbounded freedom of commerce in their ports.

A large quantity of the Portugueſe gold pieces, uſually called half-joes, was carried into the province of Quebec from the neighbouring provinces in the ſpring of this year, which, being deficient in weight, produced great inconvenience in the trade of the country.

Louis de St. Pierre repreſented to government, that he had at the expenſe of his whole fortune brought to perfection the culture of ſilk and the making of wine at New Bourdeaux in South-Carolina, and that he had now 100,000 vine plants, and above twenty additional families of French proteſtants, ready to embark with him for that country. But being unable of himſelf to ſupport the expenſe, he prayed for ſome aſſiſtance from government. On his caſe being referred by the treaſury to the lords of trade for their conſideration, they recommended Mr. de St. Pierre as deſerving public encouragement and ſupport; and the governor of South-Carolina was afterwards directed to put him in poſſeſſion of 5,000 acres of unlocated land.

In the meantime the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, commerce, &c. had teſtified their approbation of Mr. de St. Pierre's induſtry,

and their ſatisfaction in his ſpecimens of wine and ſilk, by an honorary gold medal and a premium of fifty pounds.

February—The king of France iſſued orders for the payment of all the Canada reconnoiſſances, or bills, which were the property of Britiſh ſubjects *.

As the charter of the Daniſh Eaſt India company expired this ſpring, it was renewed for twenty years. The trade with China was ſecured excluſively to the company: but every ſubject of Denmark, and even foreigners, upon condition of employing Daniſh-built veſſels, ſhipping a certain value of Daniſh manufactures, and paying certain duties to the company, were permitted to trade to all the Daniſh ſettlements in India, and from one port of India to another. The company alſo were obliged by their charter to export a certain value of Daniſh manufactures in every ſhip conſigned to China, and a larger amount in each one for India.

March—The king of Denmark erected a new light-houſe at Natchehovet near Helſingoer, and another on the tower of his palace of Cronenburg, both to be lighted for the firſt time on the firſt day of April 1772: and in order to reimburſe himſelf for the erection of theſe lights, he directed the officers of his revenue to charge one dollar on loaded ſhips and half a dollar on empty ones, being an addition of one quarter upon the light-money hitherto paid. He alſo ordered proper charts of the adjacent coaſts to be publiſhed, and to be delivered at the cuſtom-houſe of Ore-ſund, on payment of twenty-four ſhillings Daniſh (one ſhilling ſterling).

Previous to carrying theſe orders into execution he gave notice of them to the Britiſh ambaſſador by a note, wherein he depends on the equity of his Britannic Majeſty for his conſent to this additional charge, as being for the general advantage of commerce.

The Baltic merchants of London approving of the lights, and thinking the additional charge reaſonable, the board of trade recommended it to the king to agree to it.

April—The conſervators of the Bedford level were empowered to borrow ſome money for carrying on their neceſſary works in draining, banking, &c. Regulations were alſo made for preſerving certain fen lands in the ſhires of Huntington and Cambridge. [12 *Geo. III, cc.* 9, 26, 27.]

The corporation of Great Yarmouth were empowered to levy a duty on all veſſels unloading within the bounds of their port, for the purpoſe of repairing and deepening their haven and the rivers running into it. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 14.]

The magiſtrates of Glaſgow were empowered to levy a tunnage duty on all veſſels (except thoſe loaded with proviſions, ſalt for the fiſhery,

* An account of the nature of theſe bills has already been given under the year 1766.

and building materials, and empty veſſels) for the purpoſe of enlarging and deepening their harbour of Port-Glaſgow, now become inſufficient for the increaſed number and enlarged burthen of their veſſels. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 16.]

An act pretty much of the ſame nature enabled the magiſtrates of Ayr to enlarge and improve their harbour, to erect docks, light-houſes, &c. their trade having alſo conſiderably increaſed of late years. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 22.]

It was made felony to burn or deſtroy ſhips of war or naval ſtores. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 24.]

The light-houſes on the Spurn point, at the mouth of the Humber being found improperly ſituated (apparently owing to the receſs of the water from the north ſhore of the Humber) the corporation of the Trinity houſe were empowered to erect new light-houſes, and to retain the property of them till the duties payable ſhould reimburſe all charges; after which they are to revert to the former proprietors. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

In conſequence of the premiums given by the city of London for bringing mackerels and herrings to market, it appeared that 3,789,192 of the former, and an innumerable quantity of the later were brought to Billingſgate in the courſe of the late ſeaſon. The quantity of mackerel only was computed to be equal to 3,608 oxen, or about a twenty-third part of the oxen annually ſold at Smithfield market.

May 21ſt—The free importation of rice from any of the Britiſh colonies in America was permitted till the 1ſt of May 1773; and a duty of ſix pence per pound *ad valorem* was impoſed on the exportation of it. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 32.]

Wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, &c. were allowed to be imported free of duty from Europe or America till the 1ſt of December 1772. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 33.]

June—Several regulations were made to prevent impoſitions on the revenue with reſpect to tea, ſoap, low-wines, and ſpirits, and alſo vellum, parchment, paper, and playing-cards. [12 *Geo. III, cc.* 46, 48.]

In order to encourage the manufacture of leather, the importation of foreign oak bark, the preſent duty on which amounted to a prohibition, was permitted after the 25th of June 1772, on paying a duty of only one penny, when the price of bark is £10 or more for the load. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 50.]

In order to prevent the great conſumption of timber fit for the conſtruction of large ſhips of war, the Eaſt-India company were prohibited from building, or allowing to be built for their ſervice, any new ſhips, till the ſhipping in their employment ſhould be reduced under 45,000 tuns, or employing any ſhips built after 18th March 1772. But they

are at liberty to build any veſſel whatever in India or the colonies, or to charter any veſſel built in India or the colonies *. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 54.]

In order to prevent the clandeſtine importation of goods from Ireland, it was enacted, that after the 5th of July 1772 no rum, ſugar, coffee, nor other goods prohibited to be imported from Ireland to Great Britain, ſhould be entered outwards in Ireland for Great Britain. Any perſon landing goods in Britain, which had been entered in Ireland for exportation to a foreign country, forfeits the veſſel and triple the value of the goods. In order to prevent ſmuggling Britiſh plantation rum, &c. the importation of it to Ireland in veſſels under ſeventy tuns after the 29th of September was prohibited on penalty of forfeiture of the veſſel: and the importation of foreign brandy, rum, or other ſpirits, into Ireland in veſſels under a hundred tuns, beyond two gallons for each man onboard, ſubjects the veſſels and alſo the brandy, &c. to forfeiture. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 55.]

The expiring acts—for granting an allowance on the exportation of Britiſh gun-powder;—for the free importation of lumber from the American colonies;—for encouraging the manufacture of Britiſh ſail-cloth;—for allowing ſugars to be carried direct from the Britiſh ſugar colonies to foreign parts in ſhips built in Great Britain, and navigated according to law;—and for permitting the free importation of cattle from Ireland, were all continued till the 29th of September 1778, and thence, as uſual, to the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 56.]

The act 26 *Geo. II, c.* 6, was explained and amended ſo far as it relates to the eſtabliſhment of lazarets for the reception of perſons and goods liable to quarantine. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 57.]

For the better encouragement of the herring fiſhery on the coaſt of the iſle of Mann, the importation into Great Britain of herrings, certified by the governor of the iſland and the cuſtom-houſe officers to be really caught and cured in that iſland, was allowed after the 24th of June 1772, on payment of 3/4 per barrel of 32 gallons for ſalt herrings, and 1/8 per thouſand for red herrings. In the ſame act ſome doubts reſpecting the bounties on the herring fiſhery are explained. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 58.]

To promote the exportation of tea, and prevent the ſupply of it by clandeſtine trade, three fifths of the duties were allowed to be drawn back upon all teas exported to Ireland or the Britiſh colonies in America in the original packages, and in veſſels not under the burthen of eighty tons. In order to give Britiſh ſugars a preference in the Iriſh

* Many people, acquainted with the ſtate of the oak woods through different parts of the kingdom, had lately aſſerted, that there was everywhere an alarming diminution of the quantity of ſerviceable timber. One gentleman went ſo far as to ſay, that we were in danger of being no longer a maritime nation.

markets, the drawback hitherto allowed on foreign ſugars carried from Great Britain to Ireland was ſtopped. Cordage, made in Great Britain from Britiſh or foreign hemp (not American), exported to any part of the continent of Europe, was entitled to a continuation of the bounty granted by the act 6 *Geo. III, c.* 45. The liberty of importing rice from the Britiſh colonies in America into ſeveral ports for immediate exportation to foreign parts was extended to Briſtol, Liverpool, Lancaſter, and Whitehaven. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 60.]

Several regulations were made for making, keeping, and conveying, the dangerous article of gun-powder. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 61.]

The marine ſociety, an aſſociation of gentlemen, who ſince the year 1756 had contributed for the charitable and political purpoſes of fitting out deſtitute boys and landſmen for the ſea ſervice onboard the navy or merchant ſhips, were now incorporated with the uſual powers and privileges. The boys placed out as apprentices by them were exempted from being impreſſed while under eighteen years of age, and privileged to exerciſe any trade in any part of Great Britain or Ireland. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 67.]

Parliament gave a reward of £5,000 to Doctor Charles Irving for making public his art of freſhening ſea water, ſo as to make it fit for drinking; a diſcovery of the utmoſt importance to all ſeafaring people.

It was determined to pay off £1,500,000 of the three-per-cent annuities, eſtabliſhed under the various names of three per cents conſolidated, reduced, South-ſea, and three per cents of 1751, to ſuch perſons as ſhould in due time ſignify their conſent to receive at the rate of £90 for £100 of the capital; the money, amounting altogether to £1,350,000 to be paid in equal moieties on the 15th of July and 20th of October 1772, together with the intereſt or dividend to the 5th of July. And as an inducement to accept theſe terms, each proprietor of £100 ſtock, upon ſigning ſuch agreement, became entitled to four lottery tickets at the price of £12 : 10 : 0. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 70.]

'Whereas it hath been found by experience, that the reſtraints laid 'by ſeveral ſtatutes upon the dealing in corn, meal, flour, cattle, and 'ſundry other ſorts of victuals, by preventing a free trade in the ſaid 'commodities, have a tendency to diſcourage the growth, and to en'hance the price, of the ſame; which ſtatutes, if put in execution, 'would bring a great diſtreſs upon the inhabitants of many parts of 'this kingdom, and in particular upon thoſe of the cities of London 'and Weſtminſter,' the parliament wiſely repealed ſeveral well-intended, but ill-contrived, laws for reſtricting and regulating the dealers in butter, cheeſe, milk, corn, cattle, &c. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 71.]

By the law of Scotland any creditor could arreſt the effects of his debtor in the hands of a third perſon, and thereby, in caſe of bankruptcy, carry off the property to the prejudice of other creditors, and

particularly of thoſe, who, living in diſtant places, could not have ſuch early or certain knowlege of the circumſtances and connections of the debtor. The now enlarged commercial connections of Scotland rendered this partial mode of proceeding, which was a total bar againſt diſtant creditors having a chance of obtaining any ſhare in the effects of a bankrupt, a greater and more extenſive grievance than formerly; and therefor new regulations were made by parliament, whereby all creditors upon proving their debts were entitled to an equal proportion of the effects of their debtor. At the ſame time, for the further advantage of trade, the ſummary execution and other privileges, due to bills of exchange and inland bills, were, after the 15th of May 1772, extended to promiſſory notes in Scotland. [12 *Geo. III, c.* 72.]

In this ſeſſion many acts were alſo paſſed for improving the ſtreets, buildings, and police, of London and other cities and towns in England and Scotland; as alſo many acts for inland navigation, roads, and bridges, throughout the united kingdom.

The admiral on the American ſtation had placed an armed ſchooner at Providence in Rhode-iſland to protect the trade and ſuppreſs ſmuggling. The very active exertions of the officer, who commanded this veſſel, ſo provoked the people of the place, that a party of them, ſuppoſed to be about two hundred, boarded the ſchooner at midnight, took the people out of her, and ſet her on fire (10th June). Such a groſs affront to government was highly reſented at home, and in America it contributed greatly to widen the breach between the people of the country and thoſe in the ſervice of government, and perhaps to accelerate the opener hoſtilities which afterwards took place.

There were ſome great bankruptcies in London, which produced very general diſtreſs, and for ſome time ſtruck an univerſal panic, till the principal merchants had a meeting (June), at which they concerted meaſures for checking the progreſs of the evil, by which means, together with the judicious interpoſition of the bank of England, the calamity was happily prevented from ſpreading ſo wide as it muſt otherways have done, the public apprehenſions were quieted, and the national credit preſerved.

The firſt great failures were followed by ſo many others in various parts of the kingdom, that the bankruptcies of this year amounted to the unprecedented number of 525*.

* There were 415 in the year 1726, 446 in 1727, and 388 in 1728. In no other year till now did they ever amount to 300, except in 1764, when there were 301. See Mr. Chalmers's elaborate table of the bankruptcies from the year 1700 to 1793 in his *Eſtimate of the ſtrength of Great Britain*, *p.* xlvi, *ed.* 1794. Numerous bankruptcies are frequently both the conſequence and the remedy of an over-fullneſs of commercial proſperity, as ſome diſorders in the human conſtitution proceed from too great a confidence in a fullneſs of health: and the export trade of Great Britain appears to have attained a height in the years 1771 and 1772, to which it never roſe before, and which it never again equaled till the year 1787.

In the year 1769 the dukes of Buckcleugh and Queenſberry, the earl of Dumfries, Mr. Douglas (the repreſentative of the antient earls of Douglas) and many other gentlemen, chiefly of the weſt part of Scotland, entered into a partnerſhip, and ſubſcribed a capital of about £160,000 for carrying on the buſineſs of banking at Ayr, under the firm of Douglas, Heron, and company, with the intention of ſupporting and encouraging manufactures and agriculture: and the company accordingly accommodated manufacturers, land-holders, and farmers, with money with a liberality beyond the cautious prudence of other banks, in conſequence of which, together with the preſent deranged ſtate of credit, they found themſelves unable to procure caſh to anſwer the demands upon them (June). The partners now diſcovered how ſeverely they had ſuffered by their public-ſpirited undertaking; for they loſt not only their joint ſtock, but alſo ſums greatly beyond the whole amount of it, which, as the bank was not conſtituted by public authority, they were obliged to pay out of their private eſtates *. They therefor broke up their buſineſs; and in a ſhort time thereafter they paid off the whole of their debts with intereſt, which they effected in part by money borrowed, but chiefly by the ſum of £450,000 ariſing from the ſale of annuities for one or two lives, with a condition of redeeming them on paying half a year's annuity over the purchaſe money and the annuity due at the time of redemption †.

It was not only in America that ſchemes for new colonies in the Indian part of that continent were in agitation ‡. A petition by ſeveral gentlemen of rank and fortune in England for a grant of the country on the Ohio, to be ſettled by a new colony, was preſented to the privy council, who, it is ſaid, were not averſe to the ſcheme. But before an enterpriſe of ſuch magnitude could be carried into execution, the projectors of it were induced, apparently on account of the ſtate of affairs in America, to relinquiſh the undertaking.

June 19th.—No ſuch cauſes operated to prevent the attention of individuals, or of the public, from being directed to the northern provinces of America. Henry Boſtwick and others having diſcovered mines of copper and other metals in the Indian country adjacent to Lake Superior, they were incorporated by a charter from the king under the name of *The governor and company of adventurers for working mines in, about, and under, Lake Superior in America*, on condition of paying to the king one tenth part of all the gold, ſilver, copper, tin, lead, pretious ſtones, &c. And in order to guard againſt the evils of ſtock-job-

* It was well obſerved by Mr. Creech, that 'Although this loſs was hurtful to many individuals, the country was highly benefited; for the 'money having been beſtowed principally on the 'improvement of the ſoil, the gain was laſting, and 'general.' [*Letters to Sir J. Sinclair in the Statiſtical account of Scotland, V.* vi, *p.* 597.]

† The annuities were redeemed in the year 1774, as will be related under that year.

‡ See above, *V.* iii, *p.* 468.

bing, ſo fatally attendant on ſuch ſchemes in the early part of this century, no transfer of any part of the joint ſtock was to be permitted till five years after the erection of the company.

The reports made about this time by Mr. Scammel ſurveyor of the king's woods in America, and Captain Holland the geographical ſurveyor of the northern diſtrict of America, repreſent the country between St. John's river in the Bay of Fundy and Kennebeck river as one of the grandeſt magazines of pines, fit for maſts and yards for the navy, in the world. Mr. Scammel ſays, he meaſured one, which was above ſeventeen feet in circumference; and he alſo obſerves, that the white oak of that country is of a very good texture for ſhip-building.

July 6th—In conſequence of a repreſentation from the journeymen cabinet-makers of London, ſetting forth that prodigious quantities of magnificent houſehold furniture were imported from abroad on pretence of being the property of foreign ambaſſadors, but in reality for ſale, the lords of the treaſury ordered a ſeizure to be made of ſome hundreds of chairs, ſofas, marble tables, tapeſtry, and other furniture, ſaid to be but a ſmall part of the goods of that kind conſigned to the Venetian ambaſſador. He thought proper to make a demand of the goods imported under his privilege, but received for anſwer, that the king would not ſuffer his miniſter at Venice to infringe the Venetian laws, nor the Venetian miniſter here to violate the laws of Great Britain. Very different was the conduct of Prince Maſſerano, the Spaniſh ambaſſador, who, at a meeting of the foreign ambaſſadors, declared, that, as he came here to preſerve, not to violate, the rights of nations, he would keep no company with any one, who would degrade himſelf from the dignified rank of the repreſentative of a ſovereign to the deſpicable character of a ſmuggler. In a few days after another meeting was held at Prince Maſſerano's houſe, where the foreign miniſters ſigned a paper, to be ſent to the ſecretaries of ſtate, wherein they declared upon their honours, that they would permit no goods to be imported in their names but what ſhould be truely for their own uſe.

Auguſt 31ſt—The Windward iſlands in the Weſt-Indies ſuffered prodigiouſly from a hurricane of uncommon violence. In St. Chriſtophers almoſt all the plantations were laid waſte: the ſugar mills and works, the canes and other plants, and even trees, were blown down, and all the houſes in the iſland were either totally deſtroyed, or very much damaged. The ſhips alſo were driven onſhore and wrecked. The diſtreſs of the iſland was dreadful, and it was univerſal.——At Antigua, the ſtation of the ſhips of war allotted for the protection of the Windward iſlands, the admiral alone eſcaped being ſtranded, and many merchant ſhips foundered. The towns and houſes on the plantations met with the ſame deſtruction as thoſe of St. Chriſtophers.——At Dominica eighteen veſſels were loſt.——And at Montſerrat and Nevis ſcarcely a houſe eſcaped

deſtruction.——In the neighbouring foreign iſlands the deſtructive ravages of the hurricane were not leſs violent. In St. Euſtathius 400 houſes were deſtroyed: ſome of them were carried ten or twelve yards off, and a church was carried into the ſea.——At Saba 180 houſes were deſtroyed; and at St. Martins almoſt all the houſes and plantations.——At Santa Cruz the ſea aſſiſted the wind in its ruinous operations by a dreadful riſe to the height of about 70 feet, which ſwept away every thing in its courſe, and overwhelmed about 250 people. The plantations were utterly deſolated, and it was apprehended, that even next year they would ſcarcely produce any thing, the very ground being almoſt deſtroyed by deep holes made by the falling of large trees. The damage of houſes, plantations, &c. in this iſland was eſtimated at five millions of dollars (above a million of guineas).——At St. Thomas's the damage was alſo very conſiderable.

September—The duke of Bridgewater added conſiderably to the utility of his canal by eſtabliſhing regular paſſage-boats upon it, in each of which about ſixty people, with a reaſonable quantity of baggage allowed to every paſſenger, may be carried above twenty miles, as quickly as they could travel by land, for one ſhilling a-piece *. Whatever facilitates mutual intercourſe promotes the intereſts of commerce, and is therefor deſerving of notice in this work.

The empreſs of Germany erected a light-houſe about 100 feet high at her port of Oſtend, and alſo ordered a proper eſtabliſhment of pilots to be conſtantly in readineſs for the ſervice of ſhips.

About this time the emperor of Morocco compelled all the Chriſtian merchants, and alſo the European Jews, ſettled at Tetuan, to remove to Tangier, a place where there were no houſes ready for their reception.

This ſummer ſome gentlemen in Virginia ſubſcribed for the equipment of a veſſel to be ſent upon an attempt for a north-weſt paſſage. Under their auſpices Captain Wilder ſailed in the brig Diligence to the latitude of 69° 11′ in a large bay, which he ſuppoſed hitherto unknown. He reported, that from the courſe of the tides he thought it very probable that there is a paſſage, but that it is ſeldom free of ice, and therefor impaſſable †.—But an *impaſſable paſſage* (if ſuch language may be allowed) is no paſſage for ſhips.

But the impoſſibility of finding ſuch a paſſage in any navigable ſea was at the ſame time further demonſtrated by the return in this ſummer of Mr. Hearne, a naval officer then in the ſervice of the Hudſon's-

* The duke afterwards employed larger boats, carrying from 80 to 120 paſſengers with accommodations for different claſſes at the rates of 1/, 1/6, and 2/6, and each provided with a coffee-houſe kept by the maſter, wherein his wife ſerves the company with wine and other refreſhments.

† This Virginia voyage of diſcovery had eſcaped the diligence of Doctor Forſter, the hiſtorian of voyages and diſcoveries in the North.

bay company, who, in conſequence of ſome information received from the Indians, was ſent by the governor of Fort Prince of Wales on a journey of diſcovery in the year 1770. He penetrated to the Frozen ocean at the mouth of the Copper-mine river, which he makes to be in about 72° of north latitude: and in the courſe of the journey he learned by converſation with the Indians, that the continent ſtretches from thence a prodigious way to the weſtward. From his journey we know for certain, that any communication between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans muſt be beyond the latitude of 72°: and no man will ever venture his life or property in a long coaſting navigation upon a frozen ocean beyond that latitude.

October 14th—The king of Pruſſia, in order to encourage and extend the commerce of his ſubjects, eſtabliſhed by patent a company of maritime commerce with a capital of 1,200,000 crowns in ſhares of 500 crowns each. And with a view to encourage his ſubjects, and alſo foreigners, to take ſhares in this vaſt capital, he took ſeven eighths of the whole to himſelf *.

Iriſh linens to the amount of 1,954,496 yards were brought to London by ſea, and entered at the cuſtom-houſe, of which 776,625 yards were from Belfaſt, whence the fineſt linens are ſhipped. Beſides the above great quantity, there is a continual importation to Cheſter, whence the linens are forwarded by land carriage to London and other places.

Notwithſtanding the flouriſhing ſtate of the linen manufacture in the north part of Ireland, it does not appear, that the people of that country found themſelves happy at home. In the courſe of two years there ſailed from the northern ports of Ireland for North-America,

in 1771	32 veſſels meaſuring		8,900 tuns
and in 1772	30	-	8,450
	62		17,350

It is ſuppoſed, that thoſe veſſels carried as many paſſengers as they meaſured tuns; and as moſt of the emigrants paid for their paſſage at £3:10 each, and a great proportion of them were linen manufacturers and farmers, and many of them poſſeſſed of ſome property, which they carried off in money, we may eſtimate by how many ſubjects, and how much treaſure, theſe emigrations weakened the Britiſh empire in Europe, and ſtrengthened America.

December 3d—The Swedes had formerly prohibited the importation of ſalt in foreign veſſels. But now, in order to remove every reſtraint from the herring fiſhery, they admitted veſſels of all nations, loaded with that important article, to enter the ports of the provinces of Got-

* How it could be an encouragement to the owners of 300 ſhares to find themſelves only as one to ſeven in the balance with their royal partner, I cannot conceive.

tenburg and Bahus, the coaſt of which had been for ſome years paſt enriched by the viſits of the herrings.

December 4th-24th—The acts for the free importation of all kinds of grain from Europe, Africa, and America, and of ſalted proviſions, tallow, &c. from Europe, Ireland, and America, as alſo thoſe for prohibiting the exportation of all kinds of grain, malt, flour, &c. were again renewed. [13 *Geo. III, cc.* 1-5.]

The free importation of rice from the Britiſh colonies in America to Great Britain was alſo permitted till the firſt of May 1780; and the exportation of it was ſubjected to a duty of 2½ per cent ad valorem. By the ſame act all perſons were at liberty to make ſtarch of rice, notwithſtanding a patent granted to William Prince for that manufacture, Mr. Prince having conſented to reſign his excluſive right. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 7.]

The Eaſt-India company's affairs in India ſtood more in need of regulation now, than when the three ſupervifors, who unfortunately periſhed on their paſſage, were ſent out. They therefor reſolved to ſend out other ſupervifors; and General Monkton, together with Meſſieurs Cumming, Devaynes, Laſcelles, Wier, and Wheeler, were appointed to that important truſt (23d October). But before theſe gentlemen could proceed on their miſſion, they were prohibited by an act of the legiſlature, whereby

December 24th—The Eaſt-India company were reſtrained for a limited time from appointing commiſſioners for ſuperintending and regulating their affairs at their preſidencies in India. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 9.]

The company found it neceſſary, in conſequence of the embarraſſed ſtate of their affairs (which will be more fully explained in the tranſactions of the enſuing year) to reduce their dividend from *twelve and a half*, at which rate it had been paid from Midſummer 1771 to Midſummer 1772 incluſive, to *ſix* per cent per annum.

Mr. Poivre *, who had traveled over a great part of Aſia as a naturaliſt and philoſopher, having made a voyage from the French ſettlements in Madagaſcar to ſome iſlands producing ſpices, and independent of the Dutch, arrived in June 1770 at the Iſle of France with a great number of plants of nutmeg and clove trees, as well as of the fruits themſelves fit for ſowing. A ſecond, and larger, importation was made of them this year, and great hopes were conceived of their thriving in the iſland. But, though they were treated with the greateſt care by very able botaniſts, moſt of them periſhed, and thoſe that ſurvived were of a poor quality, and afforded little proſpect of ſucceſs †.

* The author of *Voyages d'un philoſophe* (Travels of a philoſopher) and ſeveral other valuable works.

† They appear to have thriven better after being naturalized to the ſoil. When Lieutenant King was at the Iſle of France in Auguſt 1790, there were 1,544 nutmeg trees and 4,163 clove trees in the king's botanic garden, ready, with many other rare plants, to be given to any of the inhabitants, who deſired to cultivate them. [*Hunter's Journal at Port Jackſon, p.* 446.]

Among the enormities, which took place in conſequence of the diſmemberment of Poland, perhaps the fate of the illuſtrious free city of Dantzik is the only event, which properly comes within the province of commercial hiſtory. The king of Pruſſia began by ſeizing the territory belonging to the city, the adjacent iſland of Holm, the two peninſulas running into the harbour, and the ſuburbs of the city. He then ſurrounded the city with cuſtom-houſes, at which he levied exorbitant duties upon every article of country produce, that was carried to market; and he impoſed new duties upon imports and exports, the payments of which he enforced before the ſhips were allowed to come into the harbour. In open contempt of the treaties exiſting between Great Britain and Dantzik, by which Britiſh commerce hadenjoyed conſiderable advantages, he raiſed the duties upon Britiſh imports, and particularly upon tobacco, the chief article of them, ſo as to amount nearly to a prohibition. Not contented with this demonſtration of his gratitude to a people, who had ſo liberally ſupported him againſt the great powers of Auſtria and Ruſſia, now his aſſociates in the diſmemberment of Poland, he erected an excluſive company veſted with the ſole right of importing and exporting ſalt, and gave to another the monopoly of bees-wax. At length the magiſtrates, ſeeing themſelves hemmed in on every ſide, ſo that no corn, proviſions, nor any other thing could go in or out of the city, deprived of the navigation of the Viſtula * and the Baltic ſea, and alſo deſerted by their citizens, who had fled by thouſands to Sweden, France, and other countries, their trade utterly annihilated by intolerable exactions, and their intereſt neglected by all the numerous powers, who were bound by treaty, and even by intereſt, to protect them, were compelled to ſubmit to the power of Pruſſia. Thus, with the ridiculouſly futile protection of a hundred treaties of friendſhip and guarantee from the various powers of Europe, fell the great and flouriſhing commercial city of Dantzik, a prey to the rapacity of the magnanimous and philoſophic Frederik.

The ſpirit of independence ſeems this year to have pervaded and animated the whole of South America, and made the European ſovereigns of that continent tremble for the ſafety of their dominion over thoſe wealthy provinces. The negroes of the Dutch colony of Surinam, availing themſelves of the knowlege of fire-arms they had attained by the inſtructions of the white people, rebelled againſt their maſters, and repeatedly defeated the ſoldiers, who were ſent againſt them. In Brazil

* The king of Pruſſia was ſaid to have extorted ſeven millions of dollars from the unhappy people by forcibly foreſtalling and monopolizing the corn brought down the Viſtula or ſeized in the adjacent countries, which he paid for in baſe money, and forced the people to re-purchaſe with good money. Granting that even half the ſum ſhould be placed to the account of exaggeration, it was ſtill a pretty good ſtroke of plunder. The forcible tranſplantion of families in the ſtile of the antient Egyptian and Perſian policy, the tribute of marriageable virgins, and the other rapacious and oppreſſive acts of the Pruſſian hero, do not belong to this work.

the negroes and Indians combined their forces, and after two obſtinate battles, ſaid to have been ſupported on their ſide with no leſs judgement than bravery, they were obliged to give way to ſuperior diſcipline. The Portugueſe are ſuppoſed to have loſt ſeven thouſand people in this war, which after all was not at an end. The ſpirit of revolt was too widely ſpread among the numerous tribes of a vaſt back country to be eaſily or quickly ſubdued. The Spaniards made a new attempt to ſettle upon the iſland of Chiloe, near the coaſt of Chili, that they might, like the dog in the manger, prevent other European nations from reaping that advantage from a friendly intercourſe with the independent Indians of Chili, which the juſt reſentment of thoſe brave people prevents themſelves from enjoying. But their fruſtrated attempt only ſerved to raiſe up a new confederacy againſt the oppreſſors of America among the Indian nations, who in great force attacked the mines, ſlaughtered all the white people they found, and then laid ſiege to Baldivia, of which, however, they were only able to burn the ſuburbs. But it may be remarked, that our accounts of affairs ſo remote, and ſo jealouſly kept in obſcurity, are far from being accurate.

Mr. Swallow, in his periodical report, obſerved, that in the courſe of this year 237 Britiſh veſſels (whereof 100 for London), and 289 veſſels of all other nations, ſailed from Peterſburg. Their cargoes conſiſted of the uſual articles.

Between the 5th of December 1771 and the 5th of December 1772 the following veſſels paſſed the Sound.

Dutch	2,145	Bremen	170	French	13	Total.		
Engliſh	1,894	Lubeck	38	Courland	7			
Daniſh	973	Hamburgh	32	Spaniſh	2			
Swediſh	805	Ruſſian	28	Portugueſe	2			
Pruſſian	326	Roſtock	21					
Dantzik	211	Imperial	13					
	6,354		302		24	6,680		

A new method of ſtriking whales by a harpoon diſcharged from a ſwivel gun was this year tried in the Greenland fiſhery *. The ſociety of arts, deſirous of encouraging every improvement in ſo important a fiſhery, gave a premium of twenty guineas to the inventor.

The quantity of coals imported into London this year was 725,008 chaldrons, which greatly exceeded the importation of any former year.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,635	veſſels	of the reputed burthen of	582,563	tuns,
and of Scotland	1,567	-	- -	91,890	
Total	9,202			674,453	

* Mr. Anderſon mentions ſuch a gun being invented in the year 1731. It might notwithſtanding be really invented by the perſon who now brought it forward to public notice.

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain,

	British		Foreign		Total	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	7,698	757,802	1,143	136,320	8,841	894,122
Outward -	9,408	923,811	563	72,750	9,971	996,561

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of the year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London - £2,525,596 3 10

And there were no remittances from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh this year, the cuſtom duties of Scotland being wholely exhauſted in fiſhery bounties, drawbacks, and charges.

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of this year

18,060 pounds of gold, value - -	£843,853 10 0
and 108 pounds of ſilver, - - -	334 16 0
	£844,188 6 0

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1771 to Chriſtmas 1772, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£92,338 12 0		£866,394 11 3	
Canaries	12,773 10 7		32,539 7 3	
Denmark, &c.	85,521 17 2	£27,510 3 7	161,972 14 3	£24,619 19 5
East country	209,189 14 5		103,661 2 5	
East-India	2,473,192 8 2		941,361 4 5	
Flanders	99,473 6 9	98 2 1	793,454 12 5	18,813 17 3
France	54,948 11 5	3,313 10 2	290,989 16 1	472,175 18 8
Germany	701,813 5 1	24,594 13 10	1,354,181 6 6	79,976 8 8
Greenland	23,449 16 5	10,451 7 2	36 15 4	
Holland	324,901 8 8	102,831 8 3	1,997,815 1 4	358,132 1 10
Ireland	1,242,305 18 5	139,942 16 10	1,963,787 4 0	204,904 19 5
Mann		905 14 5		321 7 0
Italy	858,599 8 10	1,657 14 5	831,514 1 8	4,761 5 0
Madeira	3,330 3 8	203 10 5	12,107 2 2	
Poland		8,512 7 9		222 18 4
Pruſſia		8,350 0 0		47 11 5
Portugal	347,373 11 2	12,818 15 11	635,114 4 2	1,237 6 9
Ruſſia	1,008,948 11 5	132,005 12 5	139,470 15 5	21,386 1 6
Spain	510,637 9 1	8,065 17 5	805,038 0 1	7,883 2 9
Straits	13,902 15 1		141,729 8 7	
Gibraltar				974 0 4
Sweden	187,826 15 2	24,368 19 5	54,698 12 9	1,259 7 6
Turkey	154,052 8 3		96,823 4 4	
Venice	64,605 8 0		80,849 17 0	
Guernſey, &c.	49,551 18 0	1,332 11 1	64,135 1 2	
America in general		575,382 7 5		303,498 9 5
Hudſon's bay	8,005 17 1		6,381 2 9	
Newfoundland	67,625 2 11		107,822 14 0	
Cape Breton	255 8 7		121 6 9	
Quebec	47,995 4 4		203,779 5 6	
Nova-Scotia	4,663 12 3		34,688 3 3	

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
New-England	£126,265 7 6		£824,830 8 9	
New-York	82,707 8 6		343,970 19 9	
Pennsylvania	29,133 12 3		507,909 14 0	
Virginia and Maryland	528,404 10 6		793,910 13 2	
Carolina	425,923 1 1		449,610 2 2	
Georgia	66,083 18 9		92,406 4 4	
Florida	15,722 17 6		40,458 2 9	
West-Indies in general		£127,918 2 0		£58,052 15 3
Antigua	166,351 12 4		116,074 10 11	
Barbados	210,842 12 6		138,841 10 7	
Bermuda	525 2 10		11,798 14 6	
Dominica	215,667 7 1		60,526 14 2	
Grenada	492,974 5 3		191,774 18 9	
Jamaica	1,483,818 19 8		592,733 5 1	
Montserrat	82,873 18 2		23,334 7 8	
Nevis	82,331 17 9		18,277 15 1	
St. Christophers	302,952 2 0		118,914 4 9	
St. Vincents	155,182 18 0		38,361 18 10	
Tobago	19,718 19 8		36,797 4 10	
Tortola	58,111 9 5		30,586 0 11	
New-Providence	5,817 18 9		1,564 0 9	
St. Croix	24,947 18 0			
St. Eustathius	815 5 0			
Bay of Honduras	51,079 13 10		1,535 14 10	
Musquito shore	15,580 3 0		4,728 12 11	
Foreign West-Indies				2,488 9 1
Imp. and exp. of England	13,298,452 2 3		16,159,412 14 4	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	1,210,263 14 6	1,210,263 14 6	1,560,755 19 7	1,560,755 19 7
Total, Great Britain,	14,508,715 16 9		17,720,168 13 11	

1773—The ſpirit of launching into raſh and boundleſs projects in commerce, which were to be ſupported by artificial credit, and the madneſs of towering ſpeculations in national funds, which carry the adventurer out of the proper ſphere of trade into the unfathomable abyſs of gambling, had now ſpread through the commercial world in moſt parts of Europe, and even ſome of the cautious and phlegmatic merchants of Holland were infected with it. The evil, which had reached its height in England in the ſummer of 1772, burſt out on the continent in the end of that, and the beginning of the following, year, with ſuch an extenſive craſh, that there ſeemed to be an univerſal wreck of credit throughout Europe, to the amount, as was ſuppoſed, of ten millions ſterling. But as the greateſt part of it was upon airy ſpeculation, if thoſe individuals, who were innocently drawn into the vortex, could have been exempted from the general ruin, it would have been perhaps rather upon the whole advantageous to the moderate and ſober part of the commercial world, that ſuch ideal tranſactions ſhould be expunged and annihilated.

In this time of general diſtreſs a happy mixture of generoſity and prudence in moſt of the trading nations, though without any previous

concert, (which the urgency of the caſe rendered impoſſible) averted many of the fatal conſequences that were apprehended, and prevented the miſchief from ſpreading ſo wide as it muſt otherways have done. The merchants in Holland, where the evil was greateſt, acted on this occaſion with their uſual commercial wiſdom. The bank of Stockholm gave ſupport to every houſe of real reſponſibility in that city. And the empreſs of Ruſſia ſtepped forward to ward off the impending calamity, and particularly favoured her beſt cuſtomers, the Britiſh merchants at Peterſburg, by giving them a credit on her own banker for ſuch ſums as they ſhould ſtand in need of.

The board of trade recommended to the king to permit the owners of veſſels ſent to catch cod on the Labrador coaſt, to make ſettlements on the ſhore for the ſeal and ſalmon fiſhery, which, being at a different ſeaſon of the year from the cod fiſhery, can only be carried on by people ſettled on the land.

They alſo adviſed that a part of the Labrador coaſt ſhould be detached from the government of Newfoundland, and re-annexed to that of Quebec *.

The Eaſt-India company having found it neceſſary to reduce the dividend upon their capital ſtock to the low rate of *ſix* per cent, the January payment was accordingly made at that rate.

March 16th—As it would greatly advance the improvement of ſugar plantations in the Britiſh Weſt-Indies, if loans of money could be obtained from foreigners as well as from Britiſh ſubjects, it was made lawful for foreigners to lend money on the ſecurity of mortgages upon Weſt-India eſtates at a rate of intereſt not exceeding *five per cent*, and to have the ſame rights in recovering ſuch debts as if they were Britiſh ſubjects, even though their own countries ſhould be at war with Great Britain. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 14.]

Hitherto the children of Britiſh ſubjects reſiding in foreign countries, and being proteſtants, were entitled to the privileges of Britiſh ſubjects, notwithſtanding their being born out of the king's dominions, but not the children of ſuch foreign-born ſubjects, who were conſidered as aliens. But now the privileges of Britiſh ſubjects were extended to theſe grandchildren of Britiſh-born ſubjects. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 21.]

The corporation of the city of London, conſidering the high price of corn, offered a bounty of 4*ſ* a quarter for the firſt 20,000 quarters of foreign wheat of a proper quality, which ſhould be imported in London between 30th March and 30th June next.

They alſo preſented a petition to the houſe of commons, ſetting forth the pernicions conſequences of lotteries, and praying that they might be laid aſide, eſpecially in time of peace.

* The advice was followed, and the re-annexation ratified by act of parliament in the following year.

April—The act [6 *Geo. III, c.* 22] for regulating the loading of ſhips with coals at Newcaſtle and Sunderland, being found uſeful, was prolonged for ſeven years more. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 22.]

To prevent abuſes in the ſales of parts of Britiſh veſſels to foreigners, no perſon, who is not a natural-born Britiſh ſubject, is allowed to purchaſe any ſhare of a Britiſh veſſel without the conſent of the owners of three fourths of the value of the veſſel, expreſſed in writing on the back of the regiſter. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

The magiſtrates of Greenock, having repreſented the increaſe of the number and ſize of their ſhipping in conſequence of the great increaſe of their commerce, obtained an act for levying duties ſimilar to thoſe granted in the laſt ſeſſion of parliament for the improvement of the neighbouring harbour of Port-Glaſgow, in order to deepen their harbour, to erect new piers, to bring in an additional ſupply of freſh water to the town, and to pave, light, cleanſe, and watch, the ſtreets. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 28.]

The magiſtrates of Aberdeen were inveſted with a ſimilar power of levying duties for the improvement of their harbour by new piers, in conſequence of the increaſed trade of their city, and for regulating their pilots. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

The magiſtrates of King's Lynn, having repreſented the dangerous ſtate of the navigation of their harbour in conſequence of the ſhifting of the ſands, obtained power to levy a duty for improving their harbour, fixing harbour-moorings, &c. and alſo to regulate their pilots. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 30.]

The enlargement and improvement of harbours is a ſure proof of the increaſe of commerce.

As felons and malefactors, by flying from England to Scotland, and from Scotland to England, uſed to elude juſtice, it was now enacted, that ſuch perſons ſhould be apprehended, and ſent back to the place whence they had fled. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 31.]

Before this regulation took place, the two kingdoms could ſcarcely be ſaid to be united.

A ſociety of gentlemen were incorporated for twenty-one years, by the name of *The governor and company of Britiſh caſt-plate-glaſs manufacturers*, for the purpoſe of carrying on and improving the manufactory by a joint ſtock of eighty ſhares of £500 each. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 38.] The company eſtabliſhed their manufacture in Lancaſhire, and have proſecuted it with ſuch diligence and ſucceſs, that their plates rival, or even ſurpaſs, the moſt celebrated foreign manufactures in ſize and brilliancy.

As the act for conſtituting free ports in Jamaica was near expiring, Lieutenant-governor Dalling tranſmitted his obſervations upon the influence of it on the commercial intereſts of the iſland, to the following purport. The trade with the French was very trifling in the

articles permitted to be imported by the act. Some indigo was imported, and a few negroes and other goods were given in return: but a great and detrimental importation of other articles, and particularly of coffee in great quantities, accompanied the indigo; whereby the coffee-planters, a useful class of people, who cultivate the mountainous grounds incapable of being occupied as sugar plantations, and who, being all resident, add greatly to the strength of white people in the island, were reduced to great distress. The consequence of the free-port act upon the trade with the Spanish settlements was, that the Spanish government immediately took the alarm, and, suspecting that the commanders of the guarda-costas were corrupted by the traders, superseded them all, and appointed new ones *. In addition to the hardships put upon the clandestine trade by the jealousy of the Spanish government, the strictness and severity of the custom-house officers in Jamaica in enforcing the official formalities (which, the lieutenant-governor thinks, ought to give way to the evident and great national advantage of encouraging the trade) so fettered that beneficial commerce, that it was almost annihilated at the very time when, and by the very means by which it was expected to be carried to a most flourishing state: whereas, by proper measures, the Spanish trade could be made to pour a continual stream of silver into Jamaica, to the great benefit of that island, and of the manufacturing interest of Great Britain.

The official formalities, to which the lieutenant-governor alludes, were attended with consequences infinitely worse than fettering to the Spaniards who engaged in the trade. By an unaccountable policy, the revenue officers in the free ports were instructed to keep regular accounts of all foreign vessels, the names of their commanders (who, apprehending no danger from that quarter, did not think of assuming fictitious names), and the quantity of bullion imported by them. The consequences of this measure were foreseen and foretold by sensible men in this country, and they verified the prediction as exactly as the changes of the moon, or the eclipses, can verify a calendar. The government of Spain, ever jealous of their hard-fettered commerce, and roused by the free-port act to double vigilance and vindictiveness, found means, by virtue of gold, to procure copies of the custom-house entries of the British free ports: and the unfortunate people, who were thus clearly convicted of the crime of carrying bullion to support the manufactures of Great Britain, were doomed by a relentless government to utter ruin †. When the British ministry were apprised of the dreadful

* And it appears that these new officers were more vigilant than their predecessors, for several small vessels belonging to Jamaica were taken by them.

† For this fact I follow the authority of Mr. Edwards, who then had the direction of the custom-house in Jamaica, and received the intelligence from a respectable Spanish merchant. [See his valuable *History of the West-Indies, V. i, p. 233, ed.* 1795.] But indeed, without any authority, one might venture to assert, that such consequences followed such measures as inevitably as night follows the setting of the sun.

conſequences of the ill-adviſed inſtructions, they were immediately countermanded; but it was too late: it was not to be expected that any Spaniſh adventurer would afterwards run into the gulf, in which he ſaw ſo many of his brethren periſh. And the Britiſh coloniſts were obliged, either to ſubmit to the entire privation of the Spaniſh trade, or to become the adventurers themſelves, as ſome of them actually did, though they run ſtill greater riſks of confiſcation and ſlavery than the Spaniards.

To the lieutenant-governor's report may be added, that conſiderable quantities of St. Domingo cotton, (which, according to the evidence given to the houſe of commons, is the propereſt for the manufacture of Manchester velvets, wherein thirty thouſand people were ſaid to be employed), and of dying woods, as well as indigo, were brought to the free ports in foreign veſſels. And it was alſo given in evidence, that the cotton and indigo ſo imported came to the Britiſh manufacturers thirty per cent cheaper than the ſame articles could be imported from France.

May 10th.—In order to regulate the corn trade by a permanent law (inſtead of the late temporary ſuſpenſions of exportation) which might give ſufficient encouragement to the farmer, and produce a regular ſupply of bread at moderate prices, it was enacted, that after the 1st of January 1774, whenever the average prices of Britiſh grain in a diſtrict are above the following rates per quarter of eight Winchester buſhels, viz.

wheat 48*ſ.*; rye, peas, beans 32*ſ.*; barley, beer, or bigg, 24*ſ.*; oats 16*ſ.*; they may be imported into that diſtrict on paying the following low duties, viz.

on wheat 6*d.*; rye, peas, beans, 3*d.*; barley, &c. and oats. 2*d.*, per quarter; and wheat flour 2*d* per hundred weight: and the whole duty may be drawn back, if the ſame foreign corns are exported within ſix months.

And when, and where, Britiſh corns are at, or above, the following average prices, viz.

wheat 44*ſ.*; rye, peas, beans, 28*ſ.*; barley, beer, or bigg, 22*ſ.*; oats 14*ſ.*; the exportation of ſuch corn, or of any bread, flour, ſtarch, &c. made from them, is prohibited, under forfeiture of the corn, and 20*ſ.* for every buſhel, together with the veſſel in which they are ſhipped.

But this act does not affect the carriage of corn by coaſting navigation from one part of Britain to another. Limited quantities were alſo allowed to be carried to Gibraltar, Minorca, St. Helena, Guernſey, Jerſey, Mann, and Africa; and unlimited quantities to Ireland, at any time when the exportation of corn from that kingdom is prohibited.

In order to prevent corn from falling much under the prices at which exportation is prohibited, to the prejudice of the farmer and landholder, the following bounties, to commence on the 1st of January 1774, were granted on the exportation of corn in Britiſh veſſels, with at leaſt two-

thirds of the crews Britiſh ſubjects, when, and where, Britiſh corns are under thoſe prices, viz.

on wheat, and malt made of wheat, 5*ſ*; rye 3*ſ*; barley, beer, or bigg, and malt made of them, 2*ſ*6; oats 2*ſ*, per quarter; and oat meal 2*ſ*6 per quarter of 276 pounds avoirdupois. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 43.]

By this law the legiſlature endeavoured to limit the fluctuation of prices nearly between 44*ſ* and 48*ſ* for wheat, and proportionally for other grains. The new regulations were ſomewhat more favourable than the preceding ones to the Britiſh conſumers of every ſpecies of grain, except oats, the exportation of which is encouraged by it, whereas formerly there was no bounty for the exportation of oats, any more than of peas and beans.

Inſtead of the drawback of two fifths of the duty on teas exported, allowed by the former act, [12 *Geo. III, c.* 60.] the whole duty of cuſtom was now allowed to be drawn back on all teas ſold at the Eaſt-India company's ſales after the 10th of May 1773, and exported as merchandize to the Britiſh colonies in America. The Eaſt-India company were alſo empowered to export teas direct from their warehouſes on their own account, on obtaining a licence for the quantity from the lords of the treaſury, to the Britiſh colonies in America, notwithſtanding a former law obliging them to ſell all their goods at home. But ſuch exportation was only to be permitted, when the quantity of tea to be left in the company's warehouſes ſhould be at leaſt ten millions of pounds. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 44.]

The bank of England gave notice, that after the 24th of June they would no longer diſcount bills at a lower rate of diſcount than *five* per cent.

May 28th—The manufacturers of ſilver plate in Birmingham and Sheffield labouring under great difficulties and hardſhips for want of a proper eſtabliſhment of aſſayers to certify the quality of their goods, *guardians of the ſtandard of wrought plate* were appointed for each town; and it was enacted, that after the 29th of September 1773 every piece of plate, of ſufficient ſize to bear the touch, made in, or within twenty miles of, either of thoſe towns, before being ſold or exported ſhould be marked with the initials of the maker's name, the year in which it is made, and the ſtamp of the guardians, which diſtinguiſhes the place where it is made, and aſcertains that it is of the ſtandard of eleven ounces two pennyweights of fine ſilver in the Troye pound. The marks are the figure of Britannia with an anchor for Birmingham, and a crown for Sheffield. [13 *Geo III, c.* 52.]

June 21ſt—It was enacted, that the paper, iſſued by the governments of the colonies in America, as ſecurity to their public creditors, ſhould be received by the public treaſurers as a lawful tender for the payment of duties, taxes, &c. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 57.]

A regulation was made for the prices of bread, containing a table of

prices of the buſhel of wheat including baking, and of the correſponding prices of bread. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 62.]

Whether this is an uſeful meaſure of policy, or not, is a queſtion, on both ſides of which much has been ſaid.

For ſeveral years bypaſt the affairs of the Eaſt-India company had appeared to be in a very proſperous condition, and they had thence been encouraged to raiſe their dividends to *twelve and a half per cent*; the higheſt they were by law empowered to make ſince the interference of government in their concerns, and indeed the higheſt that had been ever made ſince the union of the old and new companies. The vaſt amount of their commercial and territorial revenues gave them a pleaſing proſpect of the permanency of their proſperity, and flattered them, that, notwithſtanding the heavy preſſure of the annual ſum paid to government, they would ſoon be enabled to reduce their debts within very moderate bounds, But theſe ſplendid proſpects ſoon vaniſhed: for it now appeared, that the prodigious increaſe of their revenue and authority in India had encouraged many of their ſervants there in innumerable acts of miſconduct, profuſion, and oppreſſion. Since the year 1765 the company's annual expences had increaſed from £700,000 to £1,700,000. They paid almoſt £2,000,000 every year to government in cuſtom-houſe duties *, and the indemnity ſtipulated to be paid for the deficiency of the revenue on tea by the reduction of the duty †, together with the tribute, or compoſition, for the territorial revenue. By theſe means government had in the laſt five years reaped extraordinary emoluments from the company, beyond thoſe of former years, to the amount of £3,195,000; while they themſelves, though their mercantile profits had in theſe five years averaged £464,000 annually, had received altogether in their dividends ſcarcely £900,000 above ſix per cent upon their capital; whereas their trade alone, independent of their territorial revenue, was capable of affording a dividend of twelve and a half per cent. The great territorial revenue was reduced to a comparatively ſmall ſum by the payment of the rent to the Great mogul, the penſions to the nominal nabob of Bengal and his officers, the ſupport of the civil eſtabliſhment, of a military eſtabliſhment of near 30,000 men, and, perhaps above all, by the profuſe expenſes of collection. The pretious metals in Bengal, though formerly abundant, being the acquiſition of induſtry, not the produce of native mines, could not hold out againſt ſuch drains as the annual remittances to England, and the inveſtments to China, which had of late been regularly furniſhed from that province, to ſay

* On the 9th of December 1772 the company paid £205,468 : 0 : 8 in one payment at the cuſtom-houſe for duties on goods imported under their bond.

† It was calculated, that the company had loſt by this indemnity not leſs than £1,000,000, of which the government received £700,000, and the conſumers had the benefit of the remaining £300,000 in the reduced prices of tea.

nothing of the ſupply ſent lately to Madras. The country, being thus exhauſted of the circulating money, which uſed to invigorate the induſtry of the inhabitants, muſt ſoon be rendered incapable of either ſupporting the natives or yielding any revenue.

At this time the company were in arrears to government for £400,000, being one year's tribute, or participation, of the territorial revenue, and alſo for a large ſum due on the tea indemnity, beſides other large ſums owing to the cuſtom-houſe for duties unpaid. They were moreover deep in debt to the bank for money borrowed. And amidſt all theſe difficulties they were under acceptances for bills drawn upon them from India to the amount of £1,200,000. Thus circumſtanced, they found themſelves not only diſabled from paying the large annual tribute of £400,000, together with the indemnity, &c. but even from going on in their buſineſs, unleſs they could obtain a large loan from government.

The company aſcribed the bad ſtate of their affairs in India to their not having ſufficient power to puniſh their ſervants for diſobedience or malverſations in that country, where the diſtance alone was too powerful a cauſe of many enormities being committed, not only with impunity, but even without ever coming to the knowlege of the company. In order to redreſs thoſe evils the deputy-chairman of the company made a motion in the houſe of commons (30th March 1772) for a bill to regulate the company's ſervants in India, to prohibit the governor and council from having any concern in trade*, and to alter the mode of adminiſtering juſtice in Bengal, where the mayor's court of Calcutta, originally inſtituted for the trial of mercantile cauſes, had extended its juriſdiction, along with the extenſion of the company's dominion, from a ſmall territory to a great empire, to the magnitude of which it was by no means competent. The bill was read a firſt and ſecond time, and then dropt: but parliament did not thereupon loſe ſight of the company's affairs.

The diſtreſs and depopulation of the provinces ſubject to the company in India, the oppreſſion and deſpotiſm of their ſervants, and the miſmanagement of the revenues of Bengal and the other provinces, whereby the company were now in more ſtraitened circumſtances than ever they were when they were merely merchants, were urged as motives for appointing a committee of the houſe of commons to make a ſtrict inquiry into the ſtate of the company's affairs at home and abroad: and their inveſtigation gave birth to ſuch arrangements as may be ſaid to have thrown the company entirely into the hands of government.

On the 2d of March 1773 the company petitioned parliament for a

* When by the acquiſition of territory the governors at the different preſidencies became the deputed ſovereign rulers over ſeveral millions of people, the purſuits of a merchant or factor (for ſuch the governors formerly were) came to be diametrically oppoſite to the duty of a ſovereign. The incompatibility of the characters of ſovereign and merchant is well illuſtrated by Doctor Smith. [*Wealth of nations*, *B.* iv, *c.* 7.]

loan of £1,500,000 at four per cent intereſt for four years, with a liberty of repayment ſooner, if they ſhould be able, in ſums of not leſs than £300,000. They propoſed at the ſame time to reſtrict their dividends to *ſix per cent* till half the loan ſhould be diſcharged, and thereafter to *eight per cent* till the final payment of the whole; and then to appropriate the ſurplus profits above eight per cent to the diſcharge of their bond debts, till they ſhould be reduced to £1,500,000: and thereafter they offered to divide the ſurplus profits equally between the public and themſelves: and they requeſted to be diſcharged from the heavy penalties incurred by the non-payment of the compenſation, owing to government in conſequence of the ſum produced by the reduced duties on tea falling ſhort of the amount of the former duties; and alſo to be diſcharged from the annual payment of £400,000 for the remainder of the five years, for which they were bound by the late act of parliament; and they requeſted permiſſion to export teas free of all duty to America and to foreign countries *. They moreover propoſed, that the accounts of their territorial revenues, of their ſales, and, in a word, a complete ſtate of their affairs, ſhould be annually laid before parliament.

After keen and intereſting debates in both houſes of parliament for about three months, and remonſtrances and petitions from the India company, and from the corporation of London, whom the company had perſuaded to intereſt themſelves in the event, the following regulations were enacted.

June 21st.—The annual election of twenty-four new directors having made the adminiſtration of the company's affairs too fluctuating and unſtable, they are in future to remain four years in office, and ſix of them to go out every year; ſo that every year there ſhall be an election of ſix, inſtead of twenty-four, new directors. The election is to be made by proprietors of not leſs than £1,000 ſtock, who only have the privilege of voting in future †, which they muſt have held without colluſion

* This part of the petition was ſpeedily complied with by an act which received the royal aſſent on the 10th of May, the ſubſtance of which the reader has already ſeen.

† The numbers of proprietors of Eaſt-India ſtock, holding £500 or more, appear by the company's book to have been as follows on the 4th of March 1773.

Proprietors of £1,000 ſtock or more,

English	487	-	-	holding £1,018,398	19	11
Foreign	325	-	-	890,940	17	0
	812					1,909,339 16 11
Proprietors of £500 or more, not amounting to £1,000,						
English	1,246	-	-	634,464	1	8
Foreign	95	-	-	50,226	0	0
	1,341					684,690 1 8

By the preſent act there were 1,246 proprietors of India ſtock diſfranchized, and the whole government of the company's affairs thrown into the hands of 487 proprietors. This, to be ſure, ſaves trouble to the candidates for the direction.

4

or fraud twelve months, or acquired by ſucceſſion, the cuſtom of London, or ſettlement. No perſon, who has been employed in any civil or military capacity in India, can be elected a director, till he has reſided two years in England.

The civil and military government in India, and the management of the territorial acquiſitions in Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, were veſted in a governor-general with a ſalary of £25,000 a year, and four counſelors with ſalaries of £10,000 a year each, to reſide at Fort-William in Bengal, to whom the preſidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bencoolen, are made ſubordinate *.

A ſupreme court of judicature was alſo eſtabliſhed at Fort-William, conſiſting of a chief juſtice with a ſalary of £8,000 a year, and three other judges with ſalaries of £6,000 each, all appointed by the crown. This court ſuperſeded the mayor's court at Calcutta.

The ſalaries of the governor-general, counſelors, and judges, were directed to be paid by the company out of the territorial revenues; and neither they, nor any other civil or military ſervant of the crown or of the company in India are allowed upon any account to accept any preſents, or to engage in any kind of trade: but counſelors at law, phyſicians, ſurgeons, and chaplains, are allowed to receive their profeſſional fees.

The intereſt of money in India is limited to twelve per cent. [*13 Geo. III, c. 63.*]

In conſideration of the preſent ſtate of the Eaſt-India company's affairs, parliament granted them a loan of £1,400,000. And as it would be impoſſible for them to repay this ſum, if government ſhould continue to receive £400,000 a-year out of their territorial revenues, there appeared a neceſſity of relinquiſhing that claim, till the company ſhould be enabled by the application of the whole of the clear territorial revenues, and the whole of their profits upon trade, excepting a dividend limited not to exceed ſix per cent per annum, to repay the money advanced by government with the intereſt on it. After the repayment of that debt they were allowed to make dividends not exceeding ſeven per cent, till the clear revenues and profits, being applied to the diſcharge of their bond debts, ſhould reduce them to £1,500,000.

The company were obliged to ſubmit a ſtatement of their profit and loſs every half year to the lords of the treaſury; they were reſtricted from accepting bills, drawn by their ſervants in India, for above £300,000 in a year, excluſive of certificates to the amount of £5,000 to the commander and officers of each of their ſhips, without the conſent of the lords of the treaſury; and they were bound to export to the Britiſh ſettlements within their limits goods of the growth, produce, and manu-

* Before the year 1707 the company's ſettlement in Bengal was dependent on that at Madras. Afterwards the preſidencies were all co-ordinate and independent; but the want of harmony and concert produced great inconvenience and diſorders.

facture, of Great Britain to the amount of £761,674 between 29th September 1773 and 29th September 1775, exclusive of military and naval stores, and of all exportation by the company's servants, or by private traders licenced by the company. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 64.]

Paper printed, painted, or stained, was permitted to be imported after the 1st of August 1773 on paying, in addition to the customs already imposed, a duty of one penny-halfpenny per square yard, which is the the duty charged upon such paper manufactured at home. Paper of the manufacture of India imported by the East-India company is exempted from this duty. [13 *Geo III, c.* 67.]

July 1st.—The magistrates of London (for the city) and the justices of Middlesex were empowered to settle the wages of journeymen silk-weavers, after the 1st of July 1773. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 68.]

'Whereas the preventing the currency of clipped and unlawfully diminished and counterfeit money is a more effectual means to preserve the coin of this kingdom entire and pure, than the most rigorous laws for the punishment of such as diminish or counterfeit the same; and whereas, by the known laws of this kingdom, no person ought to pay, or knowingly tender in payment, any counterfeit or unlawfully diminished money, and all persons may not only refuse the same, but may, and by the antient statutes and ordinances of this kingdom have been required to destroy and deface the same,' and the act [9, 10 *Will. III.*] which provided against the currency of clipped and counterfeit silver, having made no provision concerning gold money, all persons to whom gold money is tendered, and who suspect the same to be counterfeit or diminished beyond the usual effects of wearing, are empowered to break or cut such pieces, the loss falling on the person tendering, if the money is bad, but if found good, on the person cutting it*. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 71.]

Cod, ling, and hake, caught in Chaleur bay, or on the coast of Labrador, were permitted to be imported into Great Britain in British vessels lawfully navigated, on the same terms as fish from Newfoundland into Ireland. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 72.]

The free ports opened in Dominica (*by the act* 6 *Geo. III, c.* 49] were continued free till the 1st of November 1780, and those in Jamaica till the 1st of November 1774. Cacao and coffee, the produce of Dominica, were allowed to be imported, either in or out of the husk, after the 1st of November 1773, on the same terms as the sugar and rum of that island; as was also any coffee in the husk, the produce of any other of the colonies. The duty on negro slaves imported into Dominica, or ex-

* In a few weeks after, the bank, at the request of the lords of the treasury, began to take in the cut and defaced gold money of this kingdom in quantities of not less than fifty guineas at £3 : 17 : 10½ per ounce.

ported from Jamaica, after the 1st of November 1773 was reduced from £1 : 10 : 0 to 2/6 a head. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 73.]

A ſtandard was preſcribed by law for the uniform meaſurement of all ſhips or veſſels, which were to pay duty, receive bounty, or be liable to penalties or ſeizure, in reſpect of their burthen. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 74.]

Parliament gave the ſum of £2,000 to Doctor Williams as a reward for making public his invention of durable green and yellow colours for dying cotton*. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 77.]

The ſeveral acts for the preſervation of the highways were reduced into one; and the ſeveral acts for regulating the turnpike roads were alſo reduced into one. In theſe acts the ſurveyors of the roads are enjoined to ſet up and maintain mile-ſtones, legible direction-poſts at every junction of the roads, graduated poſts at places liable to inundation, and proper fences upon bridges and dangerous places. The weights of waggons, to be aſcertained by weighing engines, are determined for the ſummer and the winter ſeaſons; and all carts, waggons, and carriages let for hire, are ordered to be conſpicuouſly marked with the owner's name and the number. [13 *Geo. III, cc.* 78, 84.]

Paper-makers, not employed by the bank, imitating the water-mark of the bank-note paper, were made liable to ſuffer death. And in order to prevent impoſitions upon the ignorant by notes made in imitation or reſemblance of bank notes, no perſon is allowed to make any engraved bill or promiſſory note containing the words *Bank of England*, or *Bank poſt bill*, or expreſſing any ſum in white letters on a black ground, under penalty of impriſonment for ſix months. [13 *Geo. III, c.* 79.]

Several acts for improving fen lands, for canals, roads, incloſures, and other improvements, were alſo paſſed.

Auguſt.—The Britiſh merchants in Dantzik having purchaſed a quantity of timber to be ſhipped home for the ſervice of the admiralty, the whole was ſeized by a company authorized by the king of Pruſſia, and conveyed to Elbing, at which, and ſome other of his ports on the Baltic, he was endeavouring to equip ſome ſhips of war, in order to become a maritime power.

Captain Phipps (now Lord Mulgrave) and Captain Lutwidge ſailed in two ſmall ſhips of war in May, in order to make obſervations in the polar regions. When they reached the latitude of 81° 39′, their farther progreſs was arreſted by the ice, and they were in great danger of being loſt. As ſoon as they got diſengaged, they therefor made the beſt of their way home, and arrived in September. This voyage proves, if any further proof be required, that the ſpace between the old and the new continent, though it is almoſt certain that it is not barred by any ob-

* The art of fixing beautiful and durable colours is of more importance to the proſperity of our manufactures than can eaſily be conceived.

ſtruction of land, will never afford a practicable communication with the Pacific ocean.

When it was propoſed in a meeting of the Eaſt-India company, that they ſhould avail themſelves of the new law permitting them to export their teas, it was ſtrenuouſly oppoſed by ſome of the members, who wiſhed not to depart from the old eſtabliſhed mode of conducting their ſales, wherein the payment was ſure, for a new mode of adventure, in which they muſt inevitably wait long for their payments, and beſides run great riſks of heavy loſſes. Though the large quantity of ſeventeen millions of pounds of tea, then upon hand *, was held out as an argument for the exportation to America, it was anſwered, that that quantity was only reckoned equal to the conſumption of two years, and conſequently only the double of what they ought at all times to have on hand; and that by making two ſales at home the firſt of them would in five months bring into their treaſury the ſum of £1,200,000; a ſum ſufficient to enable them to do without the loan they were then requeſting from government, which was likely to be pregnant with ſuch ruinous conſequences to the company. Notwithſtanding theſe and many other arguments, it was reſolved by the majority, that the teas ſhould be ſhipped, and ſeveral veſſels were chartered to carry them to the different ports of America.

In America all things were already tending to widen the breach between the mother country and the colonies, when the news of the deſtination of ſeveral cargoes of tea, which was to pay a duty in America, blew up a flame, which was only extinguiſhed by acknowleging the abſolute independence of the colonies.

On this, as on ſimilar occaſions, the people of Boſton took the lead. Committees, aſſembled without any authority from the powers eſtabliſhed by law or by royal authority, aſſumed, or received from the people, power to counteract the deſigns of government by preventing the tea from being ſold, or even landed, in America. On the arrival of three of the tea ſhips in the harbour, the captains, ſeeing the ſtate of affairs, offered to return to London with their ill-fated cargoes, if the conſignees, the cuſtom-houſe officers, and the governor, would give them permiſſion. The permiſſion was refuſed from every quarter. The people of the town were ſenſible, that, if the ſhips continued in the harbour, means would be found to land the teas gradually and imperceptibly. A ſtrong meaſure was therefor reſolved upon. A great number of men, diſguiſed like Mohawk Indians, boarded the ſhips in the night-time, and, without offering the ſmalleſt injury to the veſſels or ſeamen,

* For ſome years the Americans had taken off ſcarcely any of the company's teas, their enmity to Great Britain conſpiring with the lower price to give a preference to the other nations of Europe. By the keen advocates for America this non-importation was aſſigned as the principal cauſe of the company's diſtreſs: and their uſual annual demand for tea only was ſaid to have been to the amount of £600,000, beſides great ſums for piece goods, China ware, &c. It is probable that there is ſome exaggeration in the ſum.

who could make no reſiſtance, they completely diſcharged them of their cargoes, the whole of which they threw into the ſea, and then went quietly on ſhore, without meeting with any oppoſition from Caſtle William or the ſhips of war in the harbour (December 18th). Such tea ſhips as arrived at Boſton afterwards made no entry at all in the cuſtom-houſe, but returned directly to England with their cargoes. At New York a parcel of tea was landed under the guns of a ſhip of war; but the governor was obliged to deliver it to be ſecurely locked up from being ſold, as had been the caſe with the ſtamp paper in the year 1765 in the ſame place. At Philadelphia the pilots were ordered to conduct no tea ſhip up the river. And at Charleſtown the example of Boſton was followed by diſcharging the tea into the water.

The ſpirit of emigration from the north of Ireland, noticed laſt year, ſtill continued. The Highland part of Scotland was alſo infected with the ſame eagerneſs for change; and great numbers of people from Glengary, Roſs, and Sutherland, and from the iſlands of Sky, Lewis, &c. broke through the ſtrong attachment to the land of their fathers, which had for ages been the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of the Highlanders, and croſſed the Atlantic to cultivate the waſte lands, and augment the military force, of America, where ſuch an acceſſion of population, at ſuch a critical time, was welcomed with joy and aſtoniſhment*.

The emigration from the north of Ireland was owing, in ſome degree at leaſt, to the great and alarming decreaſe of the demand for linens†. The reader has already ſeen the rapid increaſe of the linen manufacture of that country to the year 1771. From that period it declined, ſo that the exports of linen from Dublin, which in the year 1771 were to the value of £1,691,000 fell in the year 1772 to about £1,300,000, and this year below £900,000; little more than a half of what they were two years before.

In Scotland the linen manufacture was alſo declining. By the ſtamp-maſters' reports, there were ſtamped for ſale in the

year 1771	-	-	13,466,274 yards,
1772	-	-	13,089,006,
and in 1773	-	-	only 10,748,110.‡

* Knox ſays it is certain, that between the years 1763 and 1775 above 30,000 people abandoned their habitations [in the Highlands] beſides great numbers from the Lowlands. [*View of the Britiſh empire, p.* 130.] Admitting the number to be juſt, we may ſafely venture to ſay, that the emigrants from the Highlands only are now (1799) increaſed to 60,000 ſubjects of the United ſtates of America.

† About three fourths, and in ſome places many more, of the looms in the north of Ireland were out of employment. From the port of Belfaſt 3,541 perſons embarked for America between October 1771 and October 1773. About 6,000 ſhipped at Derry in the ſame time. And the whole emigration from the province of Ulſter was eſtimated to amount to at leaſt 30,000 people, whereof 10,000 were weavers, many of whom carried their weaving utenſils to America. Almoſt all the emigrants carried ſome money with them, and ſome of them might be conſidered as men of property. [*Report of the committee of the Iriſh parliament on the linen manufacture, in the Iriſh Journal* 1774, *pp.* 360 *et ſeq.*]

‡ The earlier progreſs of this manufacture, which people are accuſtomed to call the ſtaple of Scotland, may be ſeen in p. 336 of this volume.

The ſtagnation occaſioned by this decline may have contributed to induce ſome of the people concerned in the manufacture to leave the country. It was given in evidence before the houſe of commons (in March 1774) by Meſſieurs Anderſon and Goldy, that 600 out of 1,800 ſpinners had emigrated from one diſtrict in Sutherland, and proportional numbers from other places. From the evidence of theſe gentlemen it appeared, that ſome of the linens made in the year 1771 ſtill remained then on hand; that the dullneſs of the demand had ſunk the average price from $12\frac{1}{2}^d$, which it was in 1769, to $9\frac{3}{4}^d$ in that year; that in four ſhires, which include Glaſgow and Paſley, out of 6,000 looms 2,500 were unemployed, and in general a third part, or more, of the looms were unemployed throughout Scotland and the north of England.

Mr. Paine, the governor of the bank of England, was alſo examined in the houſe of commons upon the ſubject of the foreign linen trade. He ſtated the quantity of foreign linens imported in the

year 1772 at 27,000,000 yards,
and in 1773 at 17,000,000.

He eſtimated the quantity of foreign linens exported to be from 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 of yards annually, and the annual conſumption of them at home to be about 18,000,000 of yards.

The decline of the manufacture and importation of linens was the neceſſary conſequence of the diſproportionately large quantities made and imported in the year 1771, when a ſpirit of overtrading was too generally prevalent. The failures which enſued in 1772, and the glut of linens on hand of the fabric and import of 1771, together with the loaded ſtate of the foreign markets from the too great exports of 1770, 1771, and 1772, effectually abridged the powers of the manufacturers, and the demands, as well as the abilities, of the exporters *.

For ſeveral years paſt the officers appointed by the committee of Britiſh merchants trading to Africa, and thoſe of the Dutch Weſt-India company ſettled on that continent, had been engaged in diſputes upon matters of commerce and poſſeſſion. The Dutch governor of St. George d'el mina claimed an excluſive right to trade with the Portugueſe veſſels, which brought Brazil tobacco to the coaſt; which was denied by the Britiſh officers, who inſiſted that the Portugueſe ſhould be at liberty to deal with whom they pleaſed, and aſſerted, that it would be impoſſible without that article to trade with the Negroes. The Dutch alſo claimed the property of the ſoil whereon a Britiſh fort was erected at Appollonia, contrary to the ſtipulation of a convention in the year 1708, wherein the River Ancobre is fixed as the utmoſt boundary of country with which the Dutch have any connection. There were alſo other diſputes about the liberty of ſome roads, and the property of ſome villages.

* See the progreſs of the linen trade from the year 1743 till the year 1771 in p. 515.

December—In conſequence of the repreſentations of the Britiſh ambaſſador at the Hague upon theſe conteſts, the States-general ſent over two of the directors of their Weſt-India company as commiſſaries to London, who, however, though aſſiſted by their ambaſſador here, concluded nothing.

The account of the French cod fiſhery this year was as follows*:

	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Men.	Fiſhing boats.	Quintals of dried cod.	Pickled cod, Number.	Pickled cod, Barrels.	Barrels of oil.	Value in livres tournois.
On the coaſt of Newfoundland	104	15,621	7,263	1,367	190,060			2,825	3,816,580
At St. Pierre and Miquelon	35	2,543	456	20	36,670			253	805,490
On the banks of Newfoundland	125	9,275	1,684			2,041,000	641	122	1,421,615
Totals - -	264	27,439	9,403	1,387	226,730	2,041,000	641	3,200	6,043,685

The number of bankruptcies, which, as has been already remarked, laſt year exceeded the number in any preceding one, was ſtill increaſed, and no fewer than 562 names of bankrupts appeared in the gazettes of this year.

In this year 20,000 hogſheads of ſugar were imported into Briſtol from the Weſt-Indies, being more by 5,000 than had ever before been brought into that port in one year.

It was about this time that the public botanic garden of Jamaica was eſtabliſhed by the legiſlature of that iſland, who were unwilling to be outdone by the ſmall iſland of St. Vincents, where the liberality and public ſpirit of General Melville, the governor-general of the Ceded iſlands, had eſtabliſhed an excellent public garden in the year 1768, as has been related in its place.

In the year 1771 Colonel Lawrie, ſuperintendant of the Muſquito ſhore, in conjunction with ſome others, bought from the Indian chiefs a tract of land, which, they ſuppoſed, contained a gold mine. In the later end of that year he applied to adminiſtration for protection in working the mine, and was aſſured, that the more valuable it turned out, the ſtronger protection ſhould be afforded to him. Thus encouraged, he returned in the later end of the year 1773 with a number of miners, and purchaſed ſlaves to work the mine. But, owing, as is alleged, to the miſconduct of the miners, the adventurers met with very little ſucceſs. And in the year 1779 the war with Spain fortunately

* This account is taken from Raynal, [*Hiſt. phil. et. polit. V.* x, *tab.* 1] who may be preſumed to be well informed upon the French fiſheries. It differs, however, from the general account given by the Britiſh admiral on the ſtation, which will alſo be found, along with that of ſome other years, under the year 1774.

delivered Great Britain from the fatal conſequence of poſſeſſing a colony with a gold mine.

There belonged this year to all the ports of

England 7,568 veſſels of the reputed burthen of 581,801 tuns,
and of Scotland 1,578 - - - - - 91,721

Total - 9,146 - - - - - 673,522

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	8,259	796,033	1,198	114,789	9,457	910,822
Outward -	9,396	874,042	491	57,945	9,887	931,987

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was, from the cuſtom-houſe in London - - £2,439,017 : 1 : 6
The cuſtom duties of Scotland being entirely exhauſted in fiſhery bounties, drawbacks, &c. there was no money remitted this year from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh.

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of this year 28,200 pounds of gold, value - - £1,317,645 : 0 : 0 and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1772 to Chriſtmas 1773 was as follows.

	Imported into		Exported from	
Countries, &c.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa - -	£68,424 19 9		£662,112 7 11	
Canaries - -	10,635 11 9		43,889 10 1	£132 1 3
Denmark, &c. -	71,044 4 0	£20,129 16 5	161,399 4 10	22,968 1 9
East country - -	164,337 12 2		68,571 19 8	
East-India - -	1,933,096 18 5		845,707 16 6	
Flanders - -	79,957 1 4		1,005,601 6 7	
France - -	44,484 1 3	2,411 15 6	285,776 4 0	511,688 8 3
Germany - -	454,186 9 5	29,911 17 0	1,337,552 1 10	53,407 18 1
Greenland - -	17,644 14 10	2,545 18 2	28 10 4	
Holland - -	411,642 6 0	105,973 16 3	1,873,860 14 5	372,535 6 3
Ireland - -	1,252,817 3 7	125,848 18 1	1,918,802 18 10	308,840 5 8
Mann - -	4,563 4 8	420 11 0	18,336 4 4	135 19 2
Italy - -	480,349 6 0	2,953 14 6	848,729 0 1	3,283 7 0
Madeira - -	2,499 0 8		13,113 14 7	201 2 7
Poland - -		5,332 7 1		335 15 5
Pruſſia - -		16,674 18 4		1,377 10 10
Portugal - -	349,214 13 4	12,817 3 0	522,379 10 1	404 1 4
Ruſſia - - -	850,112 18 5	99,682 7 9	196,229 1 3	12,273 15 6
Spain - -	462,342 12 6	7,603 16 7	839,072 7 6	10,910 1 6

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Straits	£714 9 0		£63,098 6 9	
Gibraltar				£1,293 17 4
Sweden	161,603 16 1	£22,920 0 5	36,308 0 0	2,378 16 10
Turkey	163,538 17 9		118,475 6 0	
Venice	104,003 10 7		98,371 4 6	
Guernsey, &c.	55,795 15 10	989 13 8	61,779 17 4	48 15 0
America in general		525,028 17 1		240,591 10 4
Hudson's bay	8,943 4 2		6,467 9 9	
Newfoundland	68,087 11 9		77,744 1 4	
Cape Breton	0 16 6		984 6 4	
Quebec	42,394 11 2		316,867 19 6	
Nova-Scotia	1,719 9 3		27,032 18 4	
New-England	124,624 19 6		527,055 15 10	
New-York	76,246 12 0		289,214 19 7	
Pennsylvania	36,652 8 9		426,448 17 3	
Virginia and Maryland	589,803 14 5		328,904 15 8	
Carolina	456,513 8 4		344,859 9 1	
Georgia	85,391 1 8		62,932 19 8	
Florida	7,129 13 6		51,502 7 2	
West-Indies in general		118,147 5 5		67,999 17 2
Antigua	112,779 0 10		93,323 1 3	
Barbados	168,682 6 1		148,817 9 3	
Bermuda	509 10 0		10,051 18 9	
Dominica	248,868 16 5		43,679 12 7	
Grenada	445,041 0 9		102,761 1 6	
Jamaica	1,286,888 16 6		683,451 8 10	
Montserrat	47,911 12 8		14,974 6 1	
Nevis	39,299 7 6		9,181 14 8	
St. Christophers	150,512 5 5		62,607 19 10	
St. Vincents	145,619 0 2		38,444 4 5	
Tobago	20,453 19 2		30,049 2 0	
Tortola	48,000 5 2		26,927 3 3	
New-Providence	3,379 11 4		2,132 16 4	
St. Croix	6,706 8 5		1,248 3 6	
St. Thomas			271 14 3	
St. Eustathius	5,730 19 4			
Foreign West-Indies	35,941 5 7	16,409 7 1	15,114 18 11	1,371 4 7
Imp. and exp. of England	11,406,841 3 8		14,763,253 2 4	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	1,115,803 3 4	1,115,803 3 4	1,612,177 15 10	1,612,177 15 10
Total, Great Britain	12,522,643 7 0		16,375,430 18 2	

1774—The Virgin iſlands, though a part of the general government of the Leeward iſlands (ſo called in reſpect of their ſituation in relation to Barbados) were hitherto without any regularly conſtituted internal government, the lieutenant-governor and council acting in a legiſlative and judicial capacity without any aſſembly or jury. In conſequence of an application of the inhabitants, through the governor-general, to the king, accompanied with an offer of paying the duty of four and a half per cent on all their exported produce (as the other iſlands of the government do) they were now indulged with a houſe of repreſentatives elected by themſelves, who held their firſt meeting on the 1st day of February 1774. In conſequence of the eſtabliſhment of a more regular

government, the merchants of Great Britain have been encouraged to give more liberal credits to thoſe iſlands, which have rendered them more flouriſhing.

In the year 1769 the queſtion concerning the duration of literary property, or the excluſive privilege which an author has in the ſale of his own works by himſelf or his aſſignees, was firſt agitated in a court of law. And on the 20th of July 1770 the lords commiſſioners of the great ſeal decreed in chancery, that the right veſted in the author, or by him aſſigned to another, ſhould be perpetual; and they ordered Mr. Taylor, a bookſeller in Berwick, to account to Mr. Millar, a bookſeller in London, as proprietor of Thomſon's Seaſons, for the proceeds of an edition of that work publiſhed by him.

This decree was thought deciſive; and the bookſellers of London were thereby encouraged to lay out great ſums * in copy-right, as it ſeemed a ſpecies of property ſo well ſecured by the laws. But the matter was not yet concluded. The queſtion was carried before the houſe of lords, by whom, after hearing many learned and keen arguments on both ſides, the former decree was reverſed. Literary property, therefor, ſtands now, as formerly, upon the ſtatute of the eight of Queen Anne, c. 19, which veſts in the author, or his aſſignee, an excluſive property for *fourteen years*, after the expiration of which the author, if in life, is entitled to a *ſecond term of fourteen years*, at the end of which the copy-right expires, and the right of publication is open to every body.

The bookſellers of London endeavoured to get this deciſion of the lords ſet aſide by a new act of parliament, but failed in their attempt.

As connected with this ſubject, it may be proper to anticipate, that in the following year the univerſities of England and Scotland, and the colleges of Eton, Weſtminſter, and Wincheſter, were empowered by act of parliament to hold *in perpetuity* the excluſive copy-right of all books bequeathed or given to them by the authors, unleſs expreſsly given for a limited time; ſuch books, however, being printed only at their own preſſes, and for their own ſole benefit and advantage, and alſo entered in Stationer's hall according to law.—[15 *Geo. III, c.* 53, paſſed 23d May 1775.]

I will alſo here obſerve, that, after a long conteſt, it was decided in the court of King's bench, (12th June 1777) that muſic was to be conſidered as literary property, and conſequently protected by the ſtatute of Queen Anne.

The houſe of commons having gone into a committee of inquiry into the ſtate of the linen manufacture, † which (as related under the preceding year) was now very much declined, petitions were preſented from

* Lord Lyttleton in the houſe of lords ſtated the amount of them to be about £600,000.

† Some of the facts reſpecting the linen trade, which appeared in evidence before this committee, have already been detailed under the year 1773, to which in point of time they belong.

Norwich *, Birmingham, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Walſall, and Wedneſbury, againſt laying any additional duties on foreign linens, the conſequence of which, the petitioners obſerved, muſt be ſimilar impoſitions upon Britiſh manufactures in other countries, whereby the trade and manufactures of the petitioners, and the general commerce of Great Britain, would be materially injured. Counter petitions, praying for additional duties, were preſented from the linen manufacturers in the north of England and Glaſgow. I do not find, that the houſe of commons came to any concluſion upon the linen buſineſs.

March—For the ſupport of the ſugar colonies in the Weſt-Indies, the merchants were allowed to export wheat, meal, flour, bread, biſcuit, and ſtarch made of wheat, not exceeding in the whole 2,000 quarters in a year from the port of London, and other grains, peas, beans, malt, and oat-meal, from other ports of Great Britain, on giving bond for due landing at the deſtined ports, unleſs at times when corn may be exported with a bounty. The inhabitants of Guernſey, Jerſey, and Alderney, were alſo allowed to ſhip wheat, meal, biſcuit, &c. for the fiſhery at Newfoundland or other Britiſh colonies in America, where the fiſhery is carried on. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 5.]

The act for confining the importation of gum-ſenega to Great Britain, and for laying a duty of 30*ſ* per hundredweight on the exportation of it, being found to operate as a premium to ſmugglers, who carried it to Holland either direct from Senegal, or clandeſtinely from Britain, the duty on exportation was reduced from 30*ſ* to 5*ſ*, to take place after the 5th of April 1774. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 10.]

The ports concerned in the Newfoundland fiſhery were permitted to export limited quantities of biſcuit and peas for the uſe of their fiſheries, though the general exportation of grain ſhould be prohibited, on giving proper bonds. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 11.]

In conſequence of the outrage committed upon the tea ſhips in the harbour of Boſton, an act was paſſed, whereby all buſineſs of landing and ſhipping goods in the harbour of Boſton was ſuſpended after the 1st of June 1774, with an indulgence of fourteen days for veſſels then in the harbour, excepting only military ſtores for the king's ſervice, and fuel and victuals for the uſe of the inhabitants of Boſton from other parts of America: and all charter-parties, bills of loading, and contracts for ſhipping goods for Boſton were declared null and void. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 9.]

When the banking company, under the firm of Douglas, Heron, and Company of Ayr, reſolved to diſcontinue their buſineſs, they found it

* Norwich is the chief ſeat and center of the light woollen manufacture. Did the people of Norwich conſider themſelves as not having a common cauſe with the other manufacturers of woollen goods, for whoſe ſake the linen manufacture has been bolſtered up with bounties, and fenced with high duties upon foreign linens?

would be impoſſible to call in their funds immediately without ſpread ing great and general diſtreſs throughout the country, and therefor they had recourſe to other methods of raiſing money to diſcharge the demands upon them, as has been related under the year 1772. Being deſirous of putting the annuities they had then ſold in a proper train of redemption, agreeable to the contract with the annuitants, they called a meeting of them on the 9th of February 1774, and made propoſals to cancell the annuity bonds, and ſubſtitute for them bonds of fifty pounds each to the amount of the ſums formerly ſtipulated, to be ſecured upon ſufficient unentailed eſtates in Scotland, and to be paid in London by four inſtallments, (the laſt of which was payable at Midſummer 1782) with intereſt at five per cent, and the bonds to be tranſferable in the manner of India bonds, exchequer bonds, &c. The annuitants having accepted the propoſals, proper gentlemen were appointed to conduct the buſineſs; and the tranſaction was ſanctioned by parliament. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 21.]

In the courſe of the month of March there arrived at Cadiz a flota from the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies with a cargo of ſilver together with ſome valuable merchandize, to the amount of 26,319,436 crowns, of which above 22,000,000 was ſilver. It has been already obſerved, that the Spaniſh importations of treaſure are for the benefit of the induſtrious manufacturing nations.

May—An act was paſſed to prevent embezzlements in the important manufacture of woollen cloth. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

The Hudſon's-bay company were allowed to export a limited quantity of grain for the ſubſiſtence of the people at their factories, whatever the prices might happen to be. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

The bank of Scotland, which was eſtabliſhed in the year 1695 with a capital ſtock of only £100,000 ſterling (or £1,200,000 Scottiſh *) having proved very uſeful to the country, and having ſtood unſhaken during the late convulſions of credit, the proprietors applied to parliament for liberty to double their ſtock, which was granted. The old proprietors were entitled to a preference during ſix months in ſubſcribing for the new ſtock, ſo as to double what they previouſly held; and all the qualifications for voting and bearing offices were now doubled. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 32.]

The Eaſt-India company being obliged by law to ſell their teas within *three years* from the time of their importation, and the quantity remaining in their warehouſes on the 5th of April 1774 being too great to be conſumed within the limited time, they were allowed *five years* for the diſpoſal of their Singlo, and *four years* for their Bohea, teas, to

* For ſome time after the union of the kingdoms accounts continued to be kept in Scotland in Scottiſh money. But before the middle of the eighteenth century it was generally diſuſed, except in reckoning ſervants' wages, which, I believe, are ſtill paid in old Scottiſh money in ſome parts of the country.

be computed from the time of their importation. The company were by the ſame act obliged to keep a conſtant ſupply of teas at reaſonable prices to anſwer the conſumption of Great Britain, on neglect of which the lords of the treaſury may empower others to import teas from any part of Europe. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 34.]

The term aſſigned for keeping open the free ports in Jamaica * was lengthened till the 1ſt of November 1780, and thence, as uſual, to the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 41.]

It being ſuſpected, that a great quantity of ſilver coin, deficient in fineneſs or in weight, and purporting to be the coin of this kingdom, was imported from abroad, it was enacted, that after the 1ſt of June no ſuch coin ſhould be imported; and any ſum exceeding five pounds found in any veſſel arriving in Great Britain, if found deficient in quality or weight, was ordered to be ſeized and melted down. It was alſo enacted, that no perſon ſhould be obliged to receive above twenty-five pounds in ſilver money by tale, but only by weight at the rate of 5*s*. the ounce. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 42.]

An act was paſſed for altering the conſtitution of the province of Maſſachuſets bay, by aboliſhing the democratical part of it, and reducing it more to a reſemblance of the other colonies. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 45.]

To repreſs the ſpirit of gambling in inſurances upon lives and events wherein the parties have no real or pecuniary intereſt, all policies for ſuch inſurances were declared unlawful: and the holders of inſurances upon lives were entitled only to recover the value of the intereſt they really have in the lives inſured. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 48.]

The commerce of Hull (or Kingſton upon Hull) being greatly increaſed, it became neceſſary to eſtabliſh new quays, or wharfs, where goods may be legally ſhipped and landed. It was alſo propoſed to dig out a capacious baſon in the main land for the reception of the ſhipping; and the corporation of Hull, the brotherhood of ſhipmaſters, and ſeveral other gentlemen, were formed into a company for carrying on this new harbour †. To aſſiſt a work of ſuch utility, the king gave a piece of crown land, and parliament granted fifteen thouſand pounds, to be paid at certain periods in the progreſs of the work out of the cuſtoms collected at Hull. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 56.]

All the exiſting laws for the encouragement of diſcovering the longitude at ſea were repealed, and one new act paſſed, which empowered

* For ſome account of the trade hitherto carried on at the free ports, ſee above, p. 536.

† This magnificent dock, hitherto one of the largeſt in Britain, was completed, and opened for the admiſſion of ſhips on the 22d of September 1778. It is of an oval figure, incloſed by a wall, or quay, all-around it, except the entrance, over which there is a draw-bridge. Such a harbour being exempted from the fury of ſtorms, and only needing to have the depoſited mud cleaned out at times, will be kept in repair at little expenſe, if compared with the long piers projecting into ſtormy ſeas, which have been ſo often deſtroyed and rebuilt. It is worthy of remark, that docks, ſomewhat ſimilar, were uſed by the Carthaginians.

the commiſſioners of the longitude ſtill to give rewards, not exceeding £10,000, for any improvement in that great nautical deſideratum, either by time keepers, or by ſolar and lunar tables, which ſhall be found by ſatisfactory trials to be more perfect than thoſe already in the poſſeſſion of the public. They were alſo directed to give proportional rewards for any other improvements in naval affairs. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 66.]

June—The permiſſion of carrying rice from South Carolina, Georgia, and the Floridas, to the ſouthern parts of Europe and the Weſt-India iſlands was prolonged till the year 1781. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 67.]

The moſt defective of the gold coins were already driven out of the circulation by the ſucceſſive regulations for increaſing the ſmalleſt legal weight at which they ſhould be allowed to be current, and that weight was now fixed at five pennyweights eight grains for guineas, the ſame ſtandard which has been kept up ever ſince. On this occaſion parliament determined, that all further loſs ariſing from this laſt abridgement of the allowance for wear ſhould be born by the public, and for that purpoſe voted a ſum not exceeding £2,500,000 to make good the deficiency and recoinage of the light gold, which the officers of the revenue were now directed to take in payment and convey it to the bank. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 70.]

The exportation of tools and utenſils uſed in the manufactures of cotton, linen, wool, and ſilk, was prohibited under the penalty of £200 to be paid by the ſhipper, and £200 by the commander of the veſſel receiving them onboard. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 71.]

Whereas a new manufacture of ſtuffs, made entirely of cotton ſpun in this kingdom, had lately been introduced, and ſome doubts were aſcertained, whether it was lawful to uſe it, it was declared by parliament, to be not only a lawful, but a laudable, manufacture, and therefor permitted to be uſed, on paying three pence per ſquare yard when printed, painted, or ſtained with colours. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 72.]

All the laws hitherto made for guarding the exciſe duties payable by diſtillers being found inſufficient, a new act was paſſed containing ſtricter regulations. In the ſame act a remedy was provided againſt fraudulent demands for the drawback of one third of the duty on ſoap, allowed to manufacturers of woollen goods and bleachers of linen (who uſed to repreſent the ſoap uſed by them as foreign) by limiting it, after the 24th of June 1774, to one third of the duty on home-made ſoap. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 73.]

The duty on great raiſins, being found diſproportionately high, was reduced to the ſame rate that is paid upon other raiſins imported. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 74.]

Parliament determined to pay off a million of the various three-percent annuities, of which a million and a half was paid off in the year

1772, and in the ſame manner, except that only £88 was now offered in diſcharge of £100 of the capital, for which reduction of the price the ſtockholders were offered *ſix* lottery tickets for every £100 of ſtock at the price of £12 : 10 : 0 *. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 76.]

An act was paſſed for the diſcharge of inſolvent debtors upon faithfully giving up their effects to be equally divided among their creditors, without prejudice of mortgages and other ſuch preferable ſecurities. By this act it was declared, that freehold and copyhold eſtates, and money inveſted in the funds or lent upon real ſecurity, ſhall remain liable to the claims of the creditors of ſuch diſcharged inſolvent debtors; but that their perſons, and their perſonal property acquired after their diſcharge, ſhall be exempted. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 77.]

All the laws hitherto made for the regulation of buildings in London and its vicinage being found inſufficient, a very ample ſet of regulations was enacted, whereby all future buildings of whatever nature were to be diſtributed into ſeven claſſes; and giving very minute directions for the thickneſs, materials, &c. of every part of every wall in every claſs of buildings within the bills of mortality. By this act the magiſtrates are directed to appoint ſurveyors, who are to ſee that all buildings are executed according to law. The act alſo directs that ruinous houſes ſhall be pulled down; that fire-cocks ſhall be placed in the water-pipes with conſpicuous notices of their ſituations; that fire engines, and alſo proper ladders to aſſiſt people in eſcaping from fire, ſhall be kept in every pariſh: and it preſcribes rewards to be paid to the engine-keepers and turncocks, who ſhall be firſt, ſecond, and third, in affording aſſiſtance when needed †. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 78.]

The lenders of money on the ſecurity of eſtates in Ireland and the colonies were now entitled to receive ſuch rate of intereſt, as is legal in the countries where the eſtates are ſituated, though the mortgages are executed in Britain, provided they be duely regiſtered in Ireland or the colony wherein the property lies. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 79.]

The province of Quebec was enlarged to its antient boundaries, comprehending the vaſt inland tract, which was exempted from the governor's authority in the year 1763, and alſo the country on the north

* See the act 12 *Geo. III, c.* 70.

† Quere, if an act for converting all terminable leaſes into perpetual leaſes, for a fair equivalent, would not be more effectual in introducing a voluntary cuſtom (for even in ſuch matters cuſtom prevails) of erecting ſafe and ſubſtantial buildings, than all the compulſive laws that can ever be contrived? The materials are to be had in abundance with as eaſy a freight as we pay for coals, an article of dayly conſumption; and ſurely no man would grudge a price for materials to erect a houſe for the accommodation of himſelf and his poſterity during ſeveral centuries. Obſerve how frequent and deſtructive fires are in London; how ſeldom they happen, and how little damage they do in other towns, as crowded as London, where the houſes are built upon freeholds or perpetual leaſes. I remember being told by a conſiderable proprietor of ſuch houſes, that he never made any inſurance upon his property; and on my expreſſing my ſurpriſe that he ſhould run ſo great a riſk, he made it apparent, that it would not be eaſy, for even a wilful incendiary, to damage any of his houſes to the amount of £100.

In June 1775 twelve people were buried in the ruins of ſome houſes building in Chiſwell ſtreet, which were too ſlight to ſtand till the tradeſmen were done with them.

ſide of the Gulf of St. Laurence, which had then been detached from it, and annexed to the government of Newfoundland, that the adminiſtration of civil government might extend to the numerous native-French ſettlers in the former, and that the fiſhers in the later might no longer be ſubjected to the Newfoundland regulations, which they repreſented as inconſiſtent with the nature of their fiſhery. The Roman-catholic ſubjects, ſaid to be in number about 65,000, were indulged with the free exerciſe of their religion, ſubject to the king's ſupremacy; their clergy were authorized to receive their accuſtomed emoluments from their flocks; and the antient French laws and cuſtoms were reſtored, except in criminal caſes. Several duties were alſo laid by parliament upon liquors and melaſſes, imported into the province, for the ſupport of the civil government of it. [14 *Geo. III, cc.* 83, 88.]

The privilege of naturalization having been abuſed by many foreigners, who obtained it merely for the ſake of enjoying commercial advantages in foreign countries, which by treaties belong only to Britiſh ſubjects, it was provided by law, that henceforth no foreigner ſhould be entitled to ſuch advantages, unleſs he has reſided in Britain ſeven years after his naturalization. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 84.]

Among the uſual articles of expenditure voted by parliament this year, there is the ſum of £2,500 to David Hartley Eſq. to aſſiſt him in his experiments upon an invention for ſecuring buildings and ſhips from fire. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 85.]

An act was paſſed for prolonging a conſiderable number of commercial laws relative to importation and exportation. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 86.]

The mayor and corporation of the city of London, whoſe ſupremacy and conſervancy of the River Thames is recognized to extend from the city ſtone above Staines bridge to a place called Kendall, Yenland, or Yenleet, in Kent, were empowered to improve the important inland navigation of the river above London bridge. [14 *Geo. III, c.* 91.]

A number of acts, as uſual, were alſo paſſed for the improvement of ſeveral parts of London and other towns, for canals, drainings, and other improvements.

Some merchants of Stockholm having entered into a company for carrying on the whale fiſhery, the king of Sweden, in order to promote an undertaking ſo uſeful to his dominions, aſſiſted them with an advance of 500,000 dollars at an intereſt of three per cent.

The Eaſt-India company received advice, that the Spaniſh governor of Manila had ſent a meſſage to Mr. Harbord to deſire him to depart from the new ſettlement at Balambangan, and threatening, if he did not immediately comply, that he would ſend a ſufficient force to diſlodge him, and deſtroy his works. Balambangan is a ſmall iſland at the north end of the great iſland of Borneo, which the company ac-

quired from the king of Sooloo (or Solor) in the year 1762, with a view of eſtabliſhing on it a very capital entrepot for exchanging the produce and manufactures of Hindooſtan and Europe for thoſe of China, Japan, and the Oriental iſlands. This ſettlement gave great offence to the Dutch and the Spaniards, and it was probably owing to their inſtigations, that the iſland was ſome time after attacked by the people of Sooloo, and plundered of property to the amount of near a million of dollars. The Eaſt-India company's officers and people thereupon retired with what effects they could ſave to Laboan.

The herring fiſhery was ſo very abundant on the coaſt of Fife this ſeaſon, that the fiſhermen ſold their herrings at the rate of a hundred for three pence, and 4,000 for 3/6.

On Monday the fifth day of September a *congreſs of delegates* from twelve * Britiſh colonies in America was held at Philadelphia. This meeting of a general repreſentative and legiſlative † body, elected without any authority derived from the Britiſh government, may with great propriety be called the commencement of the independent ſovereignty of the American ſtates, though the members of the congreſs ſtill profeſſed themſelves his Majeſty's faithful and loyal ſubjects, in a ſtrong petition to the king, and in an addreſs to the people of Great Britain, 'their friends and fellow-ſubjects.'

(September 22d)—One of their firſt acts was a requeſt to the merchants and traders, that they would ſend no orders to Great Britain for goods, and ſuſpend the execution of all orders already ſent, till the further ſenſe of the congreſs ſhould be made public.

October 20th—Soon after they publiſhed an ample and formal aſſociation, wherein they reſolved——that after the 1ſt of December they would import no goods whatever from Great Britain or Ireland, nor any goods carried from Great Britain or Ireland to any other place, nor any Eaſt-India tea from any part of the world, nor any melaſſes, ſyrups, paneles, coffee, or pimento, from the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands, nor any foreign indigo. ——that they would not after that day import, or purchaſe, any ſlaves, but wholely deſiſt from the ſlave trade, and have no trading intercourſe with any one concerned in it.——As the moſt effectual ſecurity for the obſervance of the non-importation, they reſolved to uſe no tea on which duty had been paid, and after the firſt of March no tea whatever, and to purchaſe no goods imported contrary to the aſſociation.——In conſideration of the intereſt of their fellow-ſubjects in Great Britain, they ſuſpended the non-exportation till the 10th of September 1775, after which day, if the obnoxious acts were not repealed, no merchandize whatever was to be exported to Great Britain, Ireland, or the Weſt-

* Georgia did not accede at the commencement of the revolution.

† Their advices, or recommodations, *though not formally called laws*, were followed with an eagerneſs or zeal of obedience, beyond what was ever paid to any laws enacted by the legally-conſtituted authorities.

Indies, except rice to Europe.——They alſo reſolved to increaſe the breed of ſheep, and encourage the manufactures of the country, eſpecially thoſe of wool, to promote induſtry and economy, and to diſcourage gaming, public amuſements of every kind, and every ſpecies of extravagance, particularly, mourning clothes, gloves, and ſcarfs, at funerals.——They reſolved to hold up to public odium any one who ſhould take advantage of the ſcarcity of goods to demand extravagant prices, or in any reſpect infringe this reſolution; and that the manufactures of America ſhould alſo be ſold at reaſonable prices.——In caſe of any cargoes arriving between the 1st of December and the 1st of February 1775, they directed, that, at the option of the importers, they ſhould either be ſent back, ſtored by the committee of the town or county at the riſk of the importer till the termination of the non-importation agreement, or ſold under the direction of the committee, who in that caſe, ſhould pay the prime coſt and charges to the importer, and beſtow the profit, if any, for the relief of the ſufferers by the Boſton port bill: but after the 1st of February no goods were to be received on any account.—And they reſolved to have no intercourſe with any province of America, that ſhould refuſe to accede to, or ſhould violate, this aſſociation.

The congreſs made the following eſtimate of the population of the aſſociated provinces at this time.

Maſſachuſets bay	400,000	Maryland	320,000
New Hampſhire	150,000	Virginia	650,000
Rhode iſland	59,678	North Carolina	300,000
Connecticut	192,000	South Carolina	225,000
New York	250,000		
New Jerſey	130,000		1,495,000
Pennſylvania with the lower counties on Delaware	350,000		1,531,678
		Total*	3,026,678

A commercial intercourſe was ſoon after opened by the Britiſh-American colonies with France and Holland, which, in conſequence of repreſentations from the court of Great Britain, was prohibited by authority, and connived at, in both countries.

Mr. Chalmers in his *Eſtimate of the ſtrength of Great Britain* [*p.* 260, *ed.* 1794] reckons the ſhipping belonging to the American colonies, now forming the United ſtates, which were entered in Britiſh ports, to have been 34,587 tuns on an average of the years 1771-2-3-4.

The king in council had iſſued letters patent on the 20th of July 1764,

* It was afterwards acknowleged, that this calculation was conſiderably exaggerated. Governor Pownal [*Memorial, p.* 122] eſtimates the whole number of the coloniſts this year at only 2,141,307: and the cenſus taken in the year 1782, including the people of Georgia, amounts only to 2,389,300, of whom only about 1,700,000 were white people. It is not probable that the number of people in the American ſtates was leſs at the concluſion, than before the beginning, of the war.

directing that the duty of four and a half per cent, which had been granted under particular circumſtances by the aſſembly of Barbados *, and had afterwards been extended to the neighbouring Britiſh iſlands, ſhould be levied on the exported produce of the ceded iſlands. This was done upon the principle, that the crown poſſeſſed an abſolute dominion over conquered territories. But the demand was oppoſed by the planters, who inſiſted, that, if any ſuch dominion ever exiſted, it was relinquiſhed by the proclamation, which invited Britiſh ſubjects to ſettle the iſlands, with the aſſurance of enjoying the Britiſh conſtitution. The diſpute was at length carried to the court of King's bench, where judgement was given againſt the crown; and thenceforth thoſe iſlands are exempted from a burthen, which lies hard upon all the other Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands except Jamaica.

December 23d—An act was paſſed for permitting the importation of Indian corn (or maize) on paying a duty of one penny per quarter, at any time when barley may be lawfully imported on paying a duty of twopence. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 1.]

It was eſtimated that the poor's rate for England and Wales, which about the year 1685 was £665,362, and in Queen Anne's reign ſtood about £1,000,000, roſe to £3,000,000 about the year 1750, and was the ſame this year †.

About this time there was much talk of the flouriſhing ſtate of ſome manufactures lately eſtabliſhed in Spain, whereby ſome millions of piaſtres were ſaid to be annually ſaved to that country. The horrible power of the inquiſition was greatly abridged in Spain this year, which might render a reſidence in that country more tolerable to foreigners, who might be inſtrumental in promoting uſeful manufactures; but it requires the experience of many years to aſcertain whether the new manufactures of Spain will have much influence on the general commerce of Europe.

The king of Sweden this year impoſed heavy duties on woollen cloths, watches, and ſeveral other articles, which the Swedes uſed to get chiefly from Great Britain. And he propoſed thoſe duties as a fund for eſtabliſhing and encouraging ſimilar manufactures in his own country.

The king of Denmark went farther; for he totally prohibited the importation of woollen goods, giving as a reaſon, that the manufactures of his own country were fully ſufficient to anſwer the demand.

The trade with Portugal, uſually ſo highly extolled, was now ſunk down to leſs than half of what it uſed to be formerly.

By the report of the Britiſh conſul at Hamburgh the merchandize imported into that city from Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh

* For an account of the manner in which the duty of four and a half per cent was impoſed or obtained, ſee *Edwards's Hiſt. of the Weſt-Indies, V.* i, *p.* 333, *ſecond ed.*

† For the preceding years ſee the elaborate work of Sir Frederic Morton Eden on *The ſtate of the poor, V.* i, *pp.* 9, 314.

colonies in the courſe of this year amounted in value to £879,762 : 6 : 0 ſterling, and the French goods carried to the ſame city to 1,157,170 : 8 : 0 There arrived this year at Hamburgh 697 trading veſſels, of which 248 were Britiſh. It is worthy of remark, that of 23 veſſels from Shetland with herrings, 19 were Daniſh, only 2 Dutch, and only 2 Britiſh; and of 52 whale ſhips from Davis's ſtraits and Greenland, 45 belonged to Hamburgh. There were 74 veſſels from Ruſſia and the Baltic loaded with corn only.

The goods imported at Bremen this year from Great Britain and Ireland amounted to - - £162,561 : 11 : 0
and thoſe from France, to - - 251,523 : 17 : 0

In the courſe of this year the following veſſels paſſed the Sound.

Daniſh	892	Pruſſian	284	Portugueſe	2	Total
Dutch	2,447	Ruſſian	36	Lubeck	47	
Engliſh	2,385	Dantzick	194	Oſtend	14	
Swediſh	1,227	Roſtock	59	Emden	207	
French	39	Hamburgh	40	Oldenburg	3	
Bremen	186	Spaniſh	18	Courland	4	
	7,176		631		277	8,084

The induſtrious trading town of Leeds was found by an exact enumeration to contain 8,041 men and boys, and 9,076 women and girls, being 17,117 inhabitants in 4,099 families.

The great improvement of the cultivation of Jamaica will appear from a compariſon of the ſtatement, already given, of its exports in the year 1768, with the following account of its exports in this year, which was taken by Mr. Edwards from the official books in the iſland.

	Sugar, hhds. 16 cwt. each	Rum, puncheons 110 gals. each	Melasses gallons	Pimento cwts.	Ginger, bags 70 lbs.	Cotton, bags 200 lbs.	Coffee, bags 100 lbs.	Indigo, barrels 300 lbs.	Logwood and Fuſtick, tuns	Mahogany, feet	Hides.
To Great Britain and Ireland.	76,344	17,348	4,140	14,625	2,348	2,022	3,684	437	1,286¼	117,200	656
North America.	1,960	8,726	57,060	693	579	88	2,863	1	26¾	12,080	8,636
	78,304	26,074	61,200	15,318	2,927	2,110	6,547	438	1,313	129,280	9,292

It is proper to obſerve, that the great decreaſe in melaſſes (compared with the exportation of 1768) may be aſcribed, partly to a greater quantity having been uſed in the diſtillery, the quantity of rum being larger this year in proportion to the ſugar than in 1768, and perhaps, partly to a more favourable ſeaſon, which produces better ſugar, and,

conſequently, leſs melaſſes. The decreaſe of ginger and cotton may be owing to the planters of thoſe ſmaller articles engaging in ſugar plantations; and as to the decreaſe of the woods, it is to be conſidered, that they are chiefly obtained by clearing uncultivated land, and that, conſequently, the quantity of them muſt decreaſe, as the cultivation of the country advances. The whole value of the above produce, together with ſome ſmaller articles not here mentioned, was eſtimated at the current prices to be two millions ſterling.

The following retroſpect of the fiſhery and trade of Newfoundland is extracted from the returns of the admirals commanding on that ſtation.

	Veſſels.	Tunnage.	Seamen and passengers.	Quintals of fiſh cured.	Tuns of train oil.	Tierces of ſalmon exported.	Seal oil; and oil, ſkins, and teeth of ſea-cows; value.	Furs obtained by hunting and trade; value.
In the year 1769.							£	£
British fiſhing veſſels	354	23,047	11,089	221,340	863			
British ſack veſſels	117	12,071	1,232					
American veſſels	120	8,706	727	*		919	7,641	1,127
Bye boats - -	429		3,147	93,220	446			
Boats of the inhabitants	1,333			263,464	1,226			
1770.								
British fiſhing veſſels	368	22,045	11,794	252,910	722			
Sack veſſels - -	123	13,363	1,298					
American veſſels -	138	6,086	781			649	13,687	1,028
Bye boats -	444		3,865	118,768	536			
Boats of the inhabitants	1,229			277,820	1,334			
1771.								
British fiſhing veſſels	369	21,954	11,976	236,080	779			
Sack veſſels - -	120	10,995	1,118					
American veſſels -	123	8,475	865			1,258	6,799	1,109
Bye boats - -	559		6,527	147,599	718			
Boats of the inhabitants	1,173			261,240	1,226			
1772.								
British fiſhing veſſels	306	20,950	11,803	305,391	651			
Sack veſſels - -	146	14,508	1,344					
American veſſels -	138	6,787	760			734	14,091	1,066
Bye boats - -	605		7,251	155,847	890			
Boats of the inhabitants	1,330			298,605	1,254			
1773.								
British fiſhing veſſels	262	18,855	9,408	262,925	864			
Sack veſſels - -	93	8,553	786					
American veſſels -	125	5,962	713			3,543	27,840	1,359
Bye boats - -	560		6,107	150,957	767			
Boats of the inhabitants	1,276			366,446	1,612			
1774.								
British fiſhing veſſels	254	22,182	7,836	237,640	680			
Sack veſſels -	149	15,179	1,370					
American veſſels -	175	8,972	936			3,501	18,670	85
Bye boats - - -	518		5,716	145,800	856			
Boats of the inhabitants	1,446			312,426	1,426			

* The American veſſels were partly traders, and partly fiſhers; but the quantity of fiſh, oil, &c. procured by them was not returned to the admirals, and is therefor unknown.

The number of inhabitants remaining through the winter on the iſland during theſe years was ſometimes under 11,000, and never amounted to 12,000; and the land cultivated by them was only from one to two thouſand acres.

The following account, ſhowing the ſtate of the French fiſhery at Newfoundland, is alſo taken from the returns of the Britiſh admiral commanding on that ſtation:

	Veſſels.	Tunnage.	Boats.	Men.	Quintals of fiſh cured.	Hogsheads of oil.
In the year 1769.....	431	44,727	1,455	12,367	215,030	3,153
1770.....	437	45,541	1,470	12,855	435,340	3,511
1771.....	419	42,369	1,327	12,640	239,864	4,259
1772.....	330	37,257	1,468	15,248	388,800	4,687
1773.....	284	33,332	1,452	14,476	336,250	3,358
1774.....	273	31,530	1,614	15,137	368,215	3,377

Beſides the above numbers of quintals of fiſh there were 470,000 fiſh by tale in the year 1769, and 470,000 alſo in the year 1771.

There belonged this year to all the ports of
England 7,559 veſſels of the reputed burthen of 588,620 tuns,
and of Scotland 1,646 - - - - - 93,342

Total - 9,205 - - - - - 681,962

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	8,587	820,961	1,231	135,476	9,818	956,437
Outward -	9,524	808,904	566	68,980	10,090	877,884

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was - - - - - £2,567,769 : 17 : 3
being all from the cuſtom-houſe in London, the Scottiſh revenue of the cuſtoms being wholely employed in paying fiſhery bounties, drawbacks, &c.

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of this year 100,280 pounds of gold, value - - £4,685,623 : 11 : 0
and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1773 to Chriſtmas 1774, was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£56,503 8 7		£846,525 12 5	
Canaries	6,134 3 6		43,707 0 10	
Denmark and Norway	101,500 12 10	£27,984 15 9	193,103 9 6	£23,268 17 5
East country	351,825 13 6		82,723 11 6	
East-India	1,386,984 18 3		546,213 6 4	
Flanders	120,013 15 6		917,490 4 2	
France	68,292 7 7	5,864 11 1	197,189 10 6	226,461 15 9
Germany	791,324 3 11	35,464 11 8	1,572,611 10 11	45,554 8 5
Greenland	51,268 15 6	6,829 10 6	17 11 4	
Holland	604,481 12 9	110,015 6 2	1,787,669 12 7	421,617 5 2
Ireland	1,447,497 6 10	154,744 12 0	2,105,826 15 5	232,078 15 0
Mann	7,419 1 8	84 12 3	24,980 15 1	158 1 0
Italy	736,571 19 11	302 12 8	739,847 11 11	9,054 6 0
Madeira	3,124 9 10	56 0 11	25,495 2 5	6 6 0
Poland		10,194 13 1		523 8 4
Portugal	371,247 12 7	20,306 11 0	558,158 14 11	791 13 3
Prussia		20,849 12 0		114 2 6
Russia	1,161,283 18 6	149,124 16 1	254,622 13 7	7,402 4 7
Spain	582,902 18 5	10,785 4 2	969,762 19 4	67,478 10 10
Gibraltar		20 3 5		2,536 4 1
Straits	442 13 0		192,745 4 10	
Sweden	190,710 14 6	22,943 13 5	88,230 13 2	7,163 1 7
Teneriffe		209 3 6		
Turkey	143,322 4 0		160,053 0 6	
Venice	60,108 4 2		92,284 1 7	
Guernsey, &c.	48,049 10 2	730 9 3	72,639 14 10	
America in general		504,572 18 7		260,033 6 11
Hudson's bay	13,446 12 1		4,961 4 5	
Newfoundland	46,234 1 5		77,263 4 4	
Cape Breton			321 18 9	
Quebec	74,123 8 3		307,635 10 5	
Nova-Scotia	1,675 18 2		47,148 16 10	
New-England	112,248 8 2		562,476 2 4	
New-York	80,008 5 9		437,937 12 1	
Pennsylvania	69,611 8 4		625,052 3 3	
Maryland and Virginia	612,030 17 9		528,738 5 4	
Carolina	432,302 16 1		378,116 17 11	
Georgia	67,647 8 5		57,518 10 2	
Florida	22,335 19 5		52,149 14 4	
West-Indies in general		121,192 15 11		67,900 4 0
Antigua	327,094 0 1		109,055 15 4	
Barbados	210,874 10 10		153,288 12 4	
Bermuda	3 6 8		10,089 7 7	
Dominica	244,729 10 2		46,952 3 5	
Grenada	461,811 15 7		115,453 17 6	
Jamaica	1,496,686 7 9		674,949 6 4	
Montserrat	67,661 9 7		16,464 7 0	
Nevis	92,656 7 10		17,820 19 4	
New-Providence	1,836 17 6		1,459 3 5	
St. Croix	406 9 4			
St. Eustathius	322 18 4			
St. Christophers	288,278 12 2		99,044 4 1	
St. Vincents	160,059 13 11		52,944 19 9	
Tobago	45,038 3 9		36,681 15 2	
Tortola	57,889 15 9		16,708 17 2	
Bay of Honduras	25,253 19 7		3,250 19 5	
Musquito shore	8,694 9 8		10,359 7 0	
Imp. and exp. of England	13,275,599 9 10		15,916,343 13 2	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	1,202,276 12 5	1,202,276 12 5	1,372,142 10 10	1,372,142 10 10
Total, Great Britain	14,477,876 2 3		17,288,486 4 0	

1775—The net duties, paid at the cuſtom-houſe of Dublin between 3d January 1774 and 3d January 1775, amounted to £352,309 on goods imported, and £2,951 on goods exported, being in all £355,260.

A new method of aſcertaining the longitude by obſerving the diſtance of the moon from the ſun with an inſtrument invented by Meſſieurs Turnbull and Latimer was tried, and found to anſwer with the greateſt exactneſs, ſo that the longitude may be determined by it at ſea at all times when the obſervation can be made.

February 17th—Low-priced wool-cards were permitted to be exported to the Britiſh colonies in America, notwithſtanding the act of laſt ſeſſion againſt the exportation of manufacturing utenſils.—[15 *Geo. III, c.* 5.]

March 23d—The free importation of ſalted proviſions from Ireland and the colonies in America was continued till the 30th of March 1776; and potatoes and all kinds of pulſe were now permitted to be imported free from Ireland during the ſame time.—[15 *Geo. III, c.* 7.]

March 30th—The American coloniſts having reſolved not to have any trading intercourſe with Britain till their grievances ſhould be redreſſed, the parliament, notwithſtanding many and very ſtrong petitions, from the Weſt-India planters (who dreaded the ruin of their eſtates by the want of the uſual ſupplies of American proviſions and lumber) from the merchants of London, and from all the trading and manufacturing towns in the three kingdoms, paſſed an act to reſtrain the people of Maſſachuſets bay, New Hampſhire, Connecticut, Rhode iſland, and Providence plantation (which provinces paſs under the general name of New-England) from trading to any other country, notwithſtanding the indulgences formerly granted with reſpect to ſalt for the fiſheries, wines from Madeira and the Weſtern iſlands, and victual and linen from Ireland. They were alſo deprived of the liberty of ſending their fiſhing veſſels to the coaſts of Newfoundland, Labrador, or Nova Scotia, or in ſhort any part of the coaſt of North America; and all ſuch veſſels were declared liable to ſeizure after the 20th of July 1775, unleſs provided with certificates from the governor of the colony they ſailed from.

Veſſels fitted out before the 1st of July ſolely for the whale fiſhery, veſſels entirely owned in the iſland of Nantucket, and veſſels fitted out for catching mackerel, ſhads, and alewives, owned in the towns of Marſhfield and Scituate, were exempted from the rigour of this act.—[15 *Geo. III, c.* 10.]

April 13th—The reſtriction laid by parliament upon the trade and fiſheries of the New-England provinces, was now extended to New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina.—[15 *Geo. III, c.* 18.]

But before the paſſing of theſe acts could be heard of in America, the long-impending and threatening clouds had burſt in deeds of open hoſtility, the event of which was to determine the fate of the colonies.

The former reſtraining laws, which were expected to cruſh the ſpirit of oppoſition, had ſerved only to add fuel to the fire, and inſtead of dividing the coloniſts by the expectation of advantages, which might accrue to other places from the annihilation of the trade of Boſton, they excited a generous ſympathy for the ſufferers in, what was conſidered as, the general cauſe of America, with a determination to aſſiſt them by all poſſible means, and to ſtand or fall together. In ſhort, the northern and ſouthern colonies, who had ſcarcely ever before harmonized together, were now knit into a band of brothers, prepared with the moſt determined reſolution to brave every ſtorm of adverſity, and to run every riſk of life and fortune, in defence of the liberties and privileges they claimed as their birthright. General Gage, the governor of Maſſachuſets bay and commander in chief of all the Britiſh forces in America, had for ſometime thought it neceſſary to act in moſt caſes as if in an enemy's country. The people on the other hand were buſily employed in learning the military exerciſe, and in procuring or manufacturing arms and ammunition of all kinds *. The fortification of Boſton neck, and the ſeizure of the provincial ammunition and ſtores lodged at Charleſtown and Cambridge (both near Boſton) by General Gage, and the ſeizure of the cannon belonging to government by the people of Rhode-iſland, and of a ſmall fort called William and Mary by the people of New Hampſhire, accelerated that criſis, to which every action on either ſide had for ſome time been rapidly tending. At laſt the appeal was made to the ſword in the celebrated ſkirmiſh at Lexington, wherein above ſixty men were killed on each ſide, and about twenty Britiſh ſoldiers were taken priſoners by the American militia (April 19th). Immediately afterwards the king's forces were beſieged in Boſton, where they ſuffered great hardſhips for want of room, and for want of freſh proviſions and vegetables, hitherto ſupplied from the adjacent country †. The military ardour ſpread over all the provinces, and the army of THE UNITED COLONIES ‡ ſtarted into exiſtence, and was organized at the voice of the congreſs, who now iſſued a paper currency for the general uſe of the whole confederacy, eſtabliſhed a general poſt-office, and, in ſhort, aſſumed all the functions of government. In the month of July the province of Georgia joined the confederacy, which thenceforth took the

* Mr. Penn, proprietor of the province of Pennſylvania, in his evidence before the houſe of lords on the 10th of November 1775, ſaid, that they had the means of caſting iron cannon in great plenty in Pennſylvania, and that they had already caſt braſs cannon, and made great quantities of ſmall arms of a very good quality.

† To add to their hardſhips, a large reinforcement arrived to crowd them through the ſummer: and what ought not to be omitted, they had the company of the commiſſioners and other officers of the cuſtoms, who, when the harbour of Boſton was ſhut up by law, had removed to Salem, whence (the non-importation agreement rendering their reſidence unneceſſary, and the temper of the people rendering it unſafe) they returned to Boſton to be under the protection of the army, and there exhibited the ſingular ſpectacle of a cuſtom-houſe at a port, where no ſhips were permitted to enter or clear out.

‡ That was the appellation then aſſumed by the confederated provinces.

appellation of THE THIRTEEN UNITED COLONIES.——But the events of the war which enſued, except as they affected commerce and our remaining colonies (for the thirteen revolted colonies were in fact from this time completely detached from the Britiſh empire) do not come within the plan of this work, but belong to the province of the general hiſtorian.

As more ſuitable to the nature of this work, it may be proper here to take a review of the principal branches of the commerce of the American colonies before they were diſſevered from the mother country, as it may be uſeful for a compariſon with the commerce of the United ſtates of America in their independent condition.

The ſoil of the New-England provinces ſcarcely furniſhes proviſions ſufficient to ſupport the inhabitants. Their induſtry has therefor been chiefly directed to the ſea, to fiſhing, navigation, and the various branches of buſineſs ſubſervient to them. The cod, ſalmon, mackerel, ſturgeon, and other ſpecies of fiſh, which frequent their coaſts and their rivers in prodigious ſholes, afforded employment to great numbers in taking, curing, and packing them. The New-Englanders alſo frequented the banks and coaſts of Newfoundland and the fiſhing grounds in the Gulf of St. Laurence as far as the coaſts of Labrador. Beſides their own fiſhing they procured from the Newfoundland fiſhermen a part of the fiſh taken by them in exchange for rum of their own manufacture, and other articles of American and Weſt-Indian produce *. The fiſh, after being ſorted in their harbours, were ſhipped off to the countries, for which each quality was beſt adapted. The beſt were carried to the ſouthern parts of Europe, and the proceeds were generally remitted to Great Britain in bills of exchange to pay for the goods they had occaſion for. A ſmall quantity of the beſt fiſh was alſo brought to Britain: and the inferior ſorts were deſtined to give a reliſh to the plantains and yams, which conſtitute the principal part of the food of the negro ſlaves in the Weſt-Indies. After the peace of 1763 they increaſed their whale fiſhery in the ſeas between their own coaſts and Labrador, in conſequence of the encouragement given to it by the great reduction of the duties on their oil and whale fins (by the act 4 Geo. III, c. 29) ſo much, that inſtead of 80 or 90 ſloops, which had formerly gone upon the whale

* The following account of rum exported from the colonies now forming the United ſtates (chiefly from New-England) to the provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Newfoundland, affords a ſpecimen of the extent of that trade during a few years preceding the revolution.

	1770	1771	1772	1773
West-India rum, gallons	52,712	36,873	47,736	50,716
American rum, ditto -	590,748	550,514	520,525	608,025
	643,460	587,387	568,261	658,741

For this account I am indebted to Mr. Chalmer's *Opinions on American independence, p.* 127.

fiſhery, they employed 160 in that buſineſs before the year 1775; and the other branches of their fiſhery increaſed in the ſame proportion. In addition to the commerce ſupported by the produce of their fiſheries, they drove a very profitable circuitous carrying trade, which greatly enriched them, and ſupplied moſt of the money, which circulated among them. Beſides building veſſels for the ſervice of their own commerce, they built great numbers, but of no very good quality of wood or workmanſhip, for ſale: and from the melaſſes, which they brought in great quantities from the Weſt-Indies (chiefly from the French iſlands) they diſtilled a kind of rum, which, though much inferior to that of the Weſt-Indies, was very acceptable to the Indians, who joyfully received it in exchange for their furs and peltry. They alſo found a great vent for it among their own fiſhermen and others engaged in the Newfoundland fiſhery: and they carried conſiderable quantities of it to Africa, where they exchanged it for ſlaves, or ſold it to the reſident European ſlave-merchants for gold duſt, ivory, woods, wax, and gums. The candles made of ſperma-ceti, furniſhed by their whale fiſhery, formed alſo an article of export to the amount of three or four hundred thouſand pound weight in a year, beſides what were conſumed upon the continent. Their exports to Great Britain conſiſted chiefly of fiſh oil, whale bone (or fins), maſts and other ſpars, to which were added ſeveral raw materials for manufactures collected in their circuitous trading voyages, and a balance paid in foreign gold and ſilver coins. In ſhort, their earneſt application to fiſheries and the carrying trade, together with their unremitting attention to the moſt minute article which could be made to yield a profit, obtained them the appellation of *the Dutchmen of America*.

New York, New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, and Delaware, have a much better ſoil than that of the New-England provinces, and they produce corn and cattle of all kinds in great abundance, and alſo hemp, flax, and lumber; to which may be added iron, pot-aſhes, and pearl-aſhes. Their exports were corn of all kinds, flour, and bread, in great quantities; ſalted proviſions of all ſorts; live ſtock, including horſes, horned cattle, hogs, and ſheep, and all kinds of poultry in great numbers; flax, and hemp; boards, ſcantling, ſtaves, ſhingles, and wooden houſes framed and ready to ſet up *; iron in pigs and bars; and veſſels, ſuperior in workmanſhip to thoſe of New-England. Their chief markets for theſe commodities were the Britiſh and foreign Weſt-Indies, Spain, Portugal, the Weſtern iſlands, Madeira, and the Canary iſlands, whence they carried home the produce of each country and bullion. Great Britain and Ireland received from them iron, hemp, flax-ſeed, ſome lumber, and ſkins and furs the produce of their trade with the Indians; together with ſome articles of their imports from other provinces and from foreign coun-

* I have been told, that the whole of the original houſes of the town at Cape Nicola mole were carried from Philadelphia.

tries which were raw materials for Britiſh manufactures, and bullion.

Maryland and Virginia almoſt from their firſt ſettlement made tobacco the principal object of their culture, and it long continued to conſtitute the moſt valuable export of Britiſh America. But the quantity of tobacco was diminiſhing in theſe provinces for many years before the revolution, owing to the ſoil being exhauſted by it; and the planters had turned much of their tobacco land to the cultivation of wheat and other grain *. Their tobacco could by law be exported only to Great Britain: but their corn, flour, lumber, &c. were carried to the Weſt-Indies and elſewhere.

North Carolina produced alſo ſome tobacco; and it furniſhed pitch, tar, and turpentine, of which about 130,000 barrels were annually exported, whereof the greateſt part came to Britain. The exports to the Weſt-Indies conſiſted moſtly of ſalt pork, Indian corn, peas, &c. But the foreign trade of this province was very trifling in proportion to its great extent, and even to the quantity of its productions, and was moſtly in the hands of the merchants of the adjacent provinces of Virginia and South Carolina, and of the New-Englanders.

In South Carolina and Georgia rice and indigo were the ſtaple articles. The former grows on the marſhy grounds near the coaſt, and the latter on the dry ſoil of the inland country. The planters had for ſome time applied to the culture of tobacco †; and they made conſiderable quantities of lumber. Their exports conſiſted of theſe articles; and the merchants of Charleſtown alſo ſhipped ſome ſkins obtained by trade with the neighbouring Indians, and part of the produce of North Carolina.

The following accounts, copied from thoſe of the cuſtom-houſe for years nearly preceding the revolution, will ſhow the ſtate of the navigation and commerce of the colonies, which now compoſe the United ſtates of America.

* Theſe two countries are now next to Pennſylvania and New York in the exportation of flour and corn.

† It is only of late that the cultivation of the excellent ſpecies of cotton, which is now enriching the planters of Georgia, was introduced.

An account of the number and tunnage of veſſels built in the ſeveral provinces under-mentioned in the years 1769, 1770, *and* 1771.

	1769			1770			1771		
	Square-rigged veſſels.	Sloops and ſchooners.	Tunnage.	Square-rigged veſſels.	Sloops and ſchooners.	Tunnage.	Square-rigged veſſels.	Sloops and ſchooners.	Tunnage.
New Hampſhire	16	29	2,452	27	20	3,581	15	40	4,991
Maſſachuſets bay	40	97	8,013	31	118	7,274	42	83	7,704
Rhode iſland	8	31	1,428	16	49	2,035	15	60	2,148
Connecticut	7	43	1,542	5	41	1,522	7	39	1,483
New York	5	14	955	8	10	960	9	28	1,698
New Jerſey	1	3	83					2	70
Pennſylvania	14	8	1,469	8	8	2,354	15	6	1,307
Maryland	9	11	1,344	7	10	1,545	10	8	1,645
Virginia	6	21	1,269	6	15	1,105	10	9	1,678
North Carolina	3	9	607		5	125		8	241
South Carolina	4	8	789		3	52	3	4	560
Georgia		2	50		3	57	2	4	543
Totals	113	276	20,001	118	282	20,610	128	291	24,068

An account of the tunnage of the ſhipping entered inwards in the ſeveral provinces undermentioned in the years 1769 *and* 1770.

	1769					1770				
	From Great Britain and Ireland.	Southern parts of Europe, and Africa.	Britiſh and foreign Weſt Indies.	Continent of America, Bahama, &c.	Totals.	From Great Britain and Ireland.	Southern parts of Europe, and Africa.	Britiſh and foreign Weſt Indies.	Continent of America, Bahama, &c.	Totals.
New Hampſhire	915	9,500	480	5,551	16,446	1,200		10,300	3,862	15,362
Maſſachuſets	14,340	17,898	6,595	27,618	66,451	13,916	6,213	19,917	25,225	65,271
Rhode iſland	415	5,958	226	10,237	16,836	400	101	7,121	11,045	18,667
Connecticut	150	7,790	105	9,971	18,016	210		8,656	10,357	19,223
New York	5,224	6,964	2,730	11,714	26,632	5,722	3,354	8,695	7,768	25,539
New Jerſey		257	25	654	936		140	365	513	1,018
Pennſylvania	9,309	12,521	10,745	12,453	45,028	7,917	15,010	15,883	12,091	50,901
Maryland	15,486	4,533	4,095	6,574	30,688	13,693	5,005	5,093	6,686	30,477
Virginia	20,652	11,612	4,600	10,373	47,237	21,236	4,403	9,547	9,617	44,803
North Carolina	6,415	6,702	700	9,259	23,076	6,202	440	5,930	8,391	20,963
South Carolina	15,281	6,893	3,325	5,608	31,107	10,163	2,256	10,588	6,797	29,804
Georgia	2,523	4,288	525	2,357	9,693	2,275	795	4,615	2,220	9,914
Totals	90,710	94,916	34,151	112,369	332,146	82,934	37,717	106,713	104,578	331,942

An account of the tunnage of the ſhipping entered outwards in the ſeveral provinces under-mentioned in the years 1769 *and* 1770.

	1769					1770				
	To Great Britain and Ireland.	Southern parts of Europe, and Africa.	British and foreign West Indies.	Continent of America, Bahamas, &c.	Totals.	To Great Britain and Ireland.	Southern parts of Europe, and Africa.	British and foreign West Indies.	Continent of America, Bahamas, &c.	Totals.
New Hampshire	2,822	170	12,878	3,874	19,744	1,910	185	12,419	5,678	20,192
Massachusets	14,044	5,102	17,532	26,988	63,666	13,778	5,419	20,957	30,128	70,282
Rhode island	540	863	6,060	10,312	17,775	955	755	6,779	12,172	20,661
Connecticut	580	200	9,201	7,985	17,966	426	180	9,923	9,734	20,263
New York	6,470	3,483	5,466	11,440	26,859	7,357	3,018	7,005	9,273	26,653
New Jersey			555	538	1,093			648	533	1,181
Pennsylvania	7,219	12,070	11,959	11,738	42,986	7,999	11,395	14,839	15,421	49,654
Maryland	16,116	6,224	3,358	5,298	30,996	17,967	5,337	5,118	5,052	33,474
Virginia	24,594	7,486	11,397	8,531	52,008	25,123	3,682	10,096	6,278	45,179
North Carolina	7,805	1,030	6,945	7,333	23,113	7,393	655	6,893	6,549	21,490
South Carolina	15,902	5,773	6,377	5,803	33,855	12,457	6,291	8,194	5,089	32,031
Georgia	3,029	200	4,654	1,358	9,241	3,460	320	5,179	1,645	10,604
Totals	99,121	42,601	96,382	101,198	339,302	98,025	37,237	108,150	107,552	351,664

The entries of the ſhipping employed in the Weſt-India and continental trades are much ſwelled by the frequent repetition of voyages in the courſe of one year.

It muſt be obſerved, that the tunnage in all the above accounts is taken from the regiſters of the veſſels, and about fifty per cent may be added to it to find the real tunnage. [See Mr. Irving's letter in the *Journal of the houſe of commons, ſeſſion* 1792, *p.* 353.]

An account of the value, in ſterling money, of the imports of the ſeveral provinces under-mentioned in the year 1769 *.

	From Great Britain.	From the South of Europe.	From the West Indies.	From Africa.	Total.
N. Hampshire		652 7 6	48,528 18 7		
Massachusets	223,695 11 6	21,908 5 6	155,387 1 4		564,034 3 8
Rhode island		2,580 19 6	56,839 17 3	180 0 0	
Connecticut		267 5 3	53,993 17 3		
New York	75,930 19 7	14,927 7 8	97,420 4 0	697 10 0	188,976 1 3
New Jersey		326 18 2	1,663 19 9		1,990 17 11
Pennsylvania	204,979 17 4	14,249 8 4	180,591 12 4		399,820 18 0
Maryland	714,943 15 8	4,683 2 3	32,197 13 9	5,400 0 0	851,140 6 6
Virginia		9,442 2 4	77,453 12 6	7,020 0 0	
N. Carolina	327,084 8 6	932 19 9	10,603 13 3	1,080 0 0	535,714 2 3
S. Carolina		6,166 6 1	65,666 4 8	124,180 10 0	
Georgia	58,340 19 4	547 7 7	9,407 9 9	13,440 0 0	81,735 16 8
Totals	1,604,975 11 11	76,684 9 11	789,754 4 5	151,998 0 0	2,623,412 6 3

* Raynal has given the trade of all the Britiſh continental colonies in this year in a table at the end of the laſt volume of his *Hiſtoire philoſophique*, *ed.* 1782; wherein he has tranſpoſed the imports and exports from and to Great Britain, or rather he has neglected to tranſpoſe them from Sir Charles Whitworth's account; and he has no account at all of the trade of the colonies with Scotland.

An account of the value, in ſterling money, of the exports of the ſeveral provinces under-mentioned in the year 1769.

	To Great Britain.	To the ſouth of Europe.	To the Weſt Indies.	To Africa.	Total.
N. Hampſhire		464 0 5	40,431 8 4	96 11 3	
Maſſachuſets	142,775 12 9	76,702 0 4	123,394 0 6	9,801 9 10	550,089 19 2
Rhode iſland		1,440 11 0	65,206 13 2	7,814 19 8	
Connecticut		2,567 4 5	79,395 7 6		
New York	113,382 8 8	50,885 13 0	66,324 17 5	1,313 2 6	231,906 1 7
New Jerſey			2,531 16 5		2,531 16 5
Pennſylvania	28,112 6 9	203,752 11 11	178,331 7 8	560 9 9	410,756 16 1
Maryland	759,961 5 0	66,555 11 11	22,303 9 2		991,401 18 6
Virginia		73,635 3 4	68,946 9 1		
N. Carolina	405,014 13 1	3,238 3 7	27,044 7 9	71 15 4	569,584 17 3
S. Carolina		72,881 9 3	59,814 11 6	619 10 9	
Georgia	82,270 2 3	614 2 0	13,285 15 1		96,169 19 4
Totals	1,531,516 8 6	552,736 11 2	747,910 3 7	20,278 5 1	2,852,441 8 4

*An account of the principal articles exported from all the Britiſh continental colonies, including the iſlands of Newfoundland, Bahama, and Bermuda, with the places to which they were ſent, and their official value at the ports of exportation, during the year 1770 *.*

Species of merchandize.	To Great Britain.	To Ireland.	To the ſouth of Europe.	To the Weſt Indies.	To Africa.	Totals. Quantity.	Totals. Value in ſterling money.
Pot-aſhes - tuns	1,173					1,173	£35,191 18 7
Pearl-aſhes - ——	737					737	29,468 10 7
Spermaceti candles lb	4,865	450	14,167	351,625	7,905	379,012	23,688 4 6
Tallow candles - ——			1,630	57,550	240	59,420	1,237 18 4
Coals - chaldrons				20		20	25 0 0
Caſtorium - lb.	7,465					7,465	1,679 12 6
Fiſh, dried - quintals	22,086	450	431,386	206,081		660 003	375,393 17 0
Fiſh, pickled barrels	123	25	307	29,582	31	30,068	22,551 7 6
Flax-ſeed - buſhels	6,780	305,083	740			312,612	35,168 18 1
Indian corn - ——		150	175,221	402,958	20	578,349	43,376 4 3
Oats - ——			3,421	21,438		24,859	1,242 19 0
Wheat - ——	11,739	149,985	588,561	955		851,240	131,467 0 10
Peas and beans - ——			1,046	49,337		50,383	10,076 12 0
Ginſeng - lb.	74,604					74,604	1,243 8 0
Hemp - tuns	86					86	129 11 3
Iron, pig - ——	5,747	267				6,017	30,088 10 0
Iron, bar - ——	2,102	85	273	3		24,064	36,960 17 3
Iron, caſt - ——				2		2	32 13 11
Iron, wrought - ——				8		8	167 7 1
Indigo - lb.	584,593			83		584,672	131,552 2 0
Whale oil - tuns	5,202	22	175	268		5,667	85,012 15 9
Whale fins - lb	112,971					112,971	19,121 7 6
Linſeed oil - tuns	161			7		168	487 18 3
Copper ore - ——	41					41	853 13 0
Lead ore - ——	6					6	82 10 0
Bread and flour - ——	263	3,583	18,501	23,449	72	45,868	504,553 6 1

It is to be remembered that in the account I have given of the trade of all the colonies, who have ſince withdrawn their allegiance from Great Britain, as alſo in the ſubſequent one of the exports of the whole colonies, the prices are rated by the official valuation, and conſequently are conſiderably under the real amount.

* In this account I have omitted the fractional parts of the quantities, which are of no uſe in a general view, but their value is retained in the totals. The attentive reader may find ſome diſagreements between the totals and the particular numbers, owing partly to the omiſſion of the fractional parts, and partly to errors, which I ſaw, but had no means of correcting.

Species of merchandize.	To Great Britain.	To Ireland.	To the south of Europe.	To the West Indies.	To Africa.	Totals. Quantity.	Totals. Value in sterling money.
Meal - bushels				4,430		4,430	£443 0 0
Potatoes - ——				3,382		3,382	126 16 6
Beef and pork - barrels			244	tuns 2,870			66,035 1 10
Butter - lb.				167,313	300	167,613	3,491 18 9
Cheese - ——				55,997			933 5 8
New-England rum gallons	600	7,931	45,310	2,574	292,966	349,281	21,836 0 0
Rice - barrels	74,073		36,296	40,033	117	150,529	340,692 15 0
Rough rice bushels				8,200			615 9 0
American loaf sugar lb.			600	8,548	1,500	10,648	332 15 0
Raw silk - ——	541					541	541 11 3
Soap - ——			550	85,035	1,000	86,585	2,164 12 6
Shoes - pairs				3,149		3,149	393 12 6
Ship stuff - barrels			7,327	640		7,964	9,958 15 0
Onions - value			£116 13 4	£6,378 16 1			6,495 9 5
Pitch - barrels	8,268			822	57	9,114	3,200 8 0
Tar, common - ——	78,115			3,173	134	81,422	24,426 12 0
Tar, green - ——	653					653	201 4 0
Turpentine - ——	15,125			1,807	82	17,014	6,895 12 0
Rosin - ——	195			28		223	278 15 0
Oil of turpentine ——	11			30		41	102 10 0
Masts, yards, &c. tuns	3,043			2		3,045	16,630 0 0
Walnut wood - value	£105 15 11	£9 0 0					114 15 11
Pine, oak, cedar boards feet	6,013,519	320,741	486,078	35,922,168	4,800	42,756,306	58,617 15 10
Pine timber - tuns	10,582	50	64	315		11,011	4,404 14 5
Oak timber - ——	3,710	10	10	144		3,874	3,487 8 2
Houses framed - N°.				163		163	3,260 0 0
Staves and heading ——	4,921,020	2,828,762	1,680,403	11,116,141		20,546,326	61,618 19 5
Hoops - ——	18,912		7,072	3,817,899	8,500	3,852,383	8,667 16 8
Shook hogsheads - ——			540	62,099	30	62,678	7,834 15 0
Cattle - ——				3,184		3,184	14,328 0 0
Horses - - ——				6,692			60,228 0 0
Sheep and hogs - ——				12,797			4,478 19 0
Poultry - dozens				2,615		2,615	1,177 1 0
Furs - value	£91,485 14 9						91,485 14 9
Deer skins - lb.	799,652	185				799,652	57,738 19 7
Tobacco - value	£904,981 14 0			1,509 0 4	87 3 9		906,637 18 1
Tallow and lard - lb.	800			183,893	450	185,143	3,857 2 11
Bees wax - ——	62,794	10,980	50,529	1,820	2,400	128,523	6,426 3 0
Total value of articles shipped as American produce -	1,686,654 4 6	114,078 13 6	685,920 6 4	844,178 14 9	21,381 16 6		3,356,159 10 2
Foreign merchandize, mostly from the West Indies -	65,860 6 9	4,698 5 10	5,991 17 1	4,754 16 0	296 12 0		81,554 17 0
Total exports -	1,752,514 11 3	118,776 19 4	691,912 3 5	848,933 10 9	21,678 8 6		3,437,714 7 2

' The caſh, or ſpecie, of the American ſtates, previous to the non-' importation act, which took place in 1775, is computed to have been ' between two and three millions *.'

The legiſlature of Jamaica having in February 1774 laid a duty of £2 currency, in addition to thoſe already ſubſiſting, upon every negro imported, the merchants of London, Briſtol, and Liverpool, engaged in the African trade, took the alarm, and petitioned againſt it.

It was alleged by the agent for the iſland, that they could find no other means of raiſing money ſo ready, that the duty complained of was in fact not paid by the importer, but by the ' *conſumer* ,'† and that the ſlave-merchants never failed to charge the buyers with the duty in addition to the ſtipulated price of the ſlaves. In December 1774 they laid a ſtill higher duty of £5 on the importation of negroes above thirty years of age, which was equal to a prohibition. This was repreſented by the agent, not as a meaſure of revenue, but of ſelf preſervation, being intended to check the exceſſive importation of negroes, which, ſince the great demand occaſioned by ſettling the ceded iſlands had ceaſed, was become an object of terrible apprehenſion. He ſtated the number of negroes already in the iſland to be nearly 220,000 ‡, of whom 52,500 were fencible men; while the number of white people of every deſcription did not exceed 16,000. After conſidering the arguments on both ſides, directions were ſent to the governor of Jamaica to prevent the continuance of the tax.

Some time after a report was ſent home from Jamaica, exhibiting the number of negroes imported into the iſland, and alſo the number exported, from the year 1702 to 1775, both incluſive. In 1702 only 843 negroes were imported, and 327 were exported. There was then no duty on their importation or exportation. In no other year is the number imported ſo low as 2,200. In 1719 a duty was impoſed of 5*s* a-head, which next year was raiſed to 10*s*; and that ſame year a duty of 20*s* a-head was laid on the exportation of negroes. About this time the annual importation was from five to above ſeven thouſand; but it increaſed afterwards to eight or ten thouſand annually, and continued fluctuating nearly about theſe numbers till the year 1774, when the heavy duty of £2 : 10 : 0 took place, and then it roſe to the unexampled number of 18,448, the number exported that year being only 2,511, though a drawback of £2 was allowed on exportation. The whole number of negroes imported from the beginning of 1702 to the end of

* I have copied theſe words from Lord Sheffield. [*Obſervations on the commerce of America, p. 210, ſixth ed.*] But Mr. Coxe ſays, that eſtimates, carefully made, appear to warrant a belief that the current ſpecie of the United ſtates in the year 1791 was about ſeven millions of dollars, or a million and a half of guineas. [*View of the United ſtates, p. 352.*] Can it be ſuppoſed that the quantity of real money in thoſe ſtates was leſs in 1791 than in 1775?

† Was this word happily, or unhappily, choſen?

‡ If ſo, above half the number of negroes imported ſince the year 1702 (ſee the next paragraph) muſt have died without leaving progeny, and all the iſſue of the whole, or numbers equivalent, muſt have periſhed.

1775 was 497,736; and the whole number exported during the ſame time was 137,114. The numbers imported in the ſecond 34 years exceed thoſe in the firſt 34 by 38,751; and the numbers exported in the later period were not equal to the half of what were exported in the former one; a proof, according to the legiſlature of Jamaica, that the ſupply of the Spaniſh market depended on the overflow of the Jamaica market: and, as the large number imported in 1774 were all ſold within the iſland, they were confident, that they had fully refuted the complaints of the ſlave-merchants of England.

The king of Pruſſia, having eſtabliſhed two annual fairs in new Pruſſia, gave orders to his ſubjects no longer to reſort to the fairs of Leipſic. He alſo built ſome frigates, and, making merchant-men of them, ſent them to Spain for ſalt to be ſold in new Pruſſia and Poland. His oppreſſion of the unhappy city of Dantzik ſtill continued, and, in conſequence, the emigration of the inhabitants; ſo that the ruin of that once flouriſhing city was now nearly completed.

About the ſame time the empreſs of Ruſſia relieved her ſubjects from ſeveral taxes, which were found oppreſſive to trade. She alſo lent ſome ſhips to a merchant, in order to commence a trade on the Black ſea, as ſhe wiſhed her ſubjects to carry on an extenſive trade upon that ſea, the climate of which is ſo much more favourable than that of the Baltic. But it is worthy of obſervation, that of the three ſeas, which *now* waſh the ſhores of her European dominions, that on the north coaſt is frozen up during a great part of the year; and the other two are inland and land-locked, and, moreover, both have very narrow outlets, which are commanded by foreign powers, who may ſometimes not be diſpoſed to be ſo complaiſant as the Porte was to the ten veſſels, which were ſtopped by the governor of the fort at the Dardanelles.

May—The ſervants employed in the coal-mines and ſalt-works in Scotland being, by the ſtatute law, adſtricted for life to the works to which they belonged, and ſuch a ſpecies of ſlavery being deemed a reproach to a free country, it was enacted that after the 1st of July 1775, young people, who ſhould learn thoſe buſineſſes, ſhould ſerve a proper apprenticeſhip, and at the expiration of it be free; and that the grown people, already engaged in ſuch works, ſhould be at liberty to leave them after ſerving faithfully during a number of years (from three to ten) proportioned to their ages, whereby the emancipation, though complete, would be gradual, ſo as to give no ſudden ſhock to the works, or inconvenience to the proprietors. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 28.]

In order to encourage that great nurſery for hardy ſeamen, the Newfoundland fiſhery, parliament offered premiums of £40 to each of the firſt 25 veſſels, of £20 to each of the next 100 veſſels, and of £10 to each of the next 100, which ſhould on or before the 15th of July in each year land on the coaſts of Newfoundland, between Cape Ray and Cape

de Gat, a cargo of at leaſt 10,000 fiſh, and proceed to the banks for a ſecond cargo. The veſſels muſt be Britiſh-built, of fifty tuns burthen or upwards, belong to Great Britain, Ireland, or the iſlands in Europe ſubject to the Britiſh crown, and be navigated by not leſs than fifteen men, three fourths of them beſides the maſter being Britiſh ſubjects. Theſe bounties were to continue till the 1st of January, 1787. Alſo veſſels, owned and manned as above directed, and proſecuting the whale-fiſhery in the Gulf of St. Laurence, or on the coaſts of Labrador or Newfoundland, and catching one whale at leaſt, were allowed to import their oil free of duty: and five premiums of £500, £400, £300, £200, and £100, were allowed to the five veſſels, which ſhould bring the greateſt quantities of oil. The ſkins of ſeals, caught by European Britiſh ſubjects, were alſo admitted to be imported free of duty in ſhips legally navigated. To prevent fiſhermen and artificers from being loſt to the kingdom by going from Newfoundland to America, the commander of a veſſel carrying any ſuch perſon to America was ſubjected to a penalty of £200: and further, to prevent the fiſhermen from remaining in Newfoundland (where, as already obſerved, they generally became robbers or pirates) the employers are directed to retain a part of their wages, to be paid them at their return home. By this act the bounties allowed to ſhips employed in the whale fiſhery at Greenland or Davis's ſtraits were extended to ſhips fitted out from Ireland.* [15 *Geo. III, c.* 31.]

To leſſen the importation of oil from foreigners, and alſo to guard againſt a deficiency of oil, an article ſo neceſſary in the woollen and other manufactures, by encouraging the manufacture of vegetable oils at home, it was enacted, that after the 1st of Auguſt 1775, whenever the price of Britiſh rape ſeed ſhould exceed £17 : 10 : 0 per laſt, it might be imported from Ireland, on paying only one ſhilling per laſt, inſtead of the former prohibitory duty. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 34.]

Theſe two acts were calculated to guard againſt any deficiency of fiſh or oil, that might proceed from the interruption of the New England fiſheries. But the fiſhery at Newfoundland muſt have been defective this year by reaſon of the dreadful ſtorm, wherein eleven ſhips, about a

* Previous to the paſſing of this act the Iriſh had ſent ſhips to Newfoundland, which the commodores indulged with a permiſſion to fiſh, and entered them in their reports as Britiſh veſſels. Being now relieved from the neceſſity of courting ſuch a precarious indulgence, the Iriſh, liberally ſupported by their parliament, puſhed on their Newfoundland fiſhery to a great extent.

Some of the merchants of Dartmouth and Poole, deputed from the whole body of merchants engaged in the Newfoundland trade, repreſented to a committee of the houſe of commons in the year 1793, that the regulations and reſtrictions of this act had been found by experience to be of the moſt pernicious tendency; ſo much ſo, that in practice they have been generally diſregarded, and never enforced, except from neceſſity; and that they would gladly throw up the bounties, if they might be relieved from the litigations, and other hardſhips, proceeding from this act. Indeed the bounty appears (from an account made up in the comptroller-general's office in the cuſtom-houſe, ſigned by Mr. Powell 9th July 1784) to have been ſo little attended to, that only one inſtance occurred of its being paid in the courſe of nine years, which was only a payment of £40 at Exeter in the year 1778.

thouſand boats, and a vaſt number of lives, were loſt; and alſo by the abſence of many veſſels, which were obliged to leave the fiſhing grounds to return home in order to carry out proviſion for the others, they having moſt unaccountably forgotten, that they could not now have any ſupplies from America.

For the encouragement of the manufacture of red, green, and blue, leather, raw goats ſkins were allowed to be imported in Britiſh veſſels free of any duty for five years, to be computed from the 20th of June 1775. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 35.]

In order to prevent the ſmuggling of painted earthen ware, made on the continent of Europe, all ſuch ware, except galley tiles, was permitted to be imported on paying a duty of ten and a half per cent ad valorem. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

Along with the uſual articles of expenditure voted by parliament for this year, we find an allowance of £2,145 to Murdoch Mackenzie for engraving his nautical ſurveys of the weſt coaſt of Britain, Ireland, and the Weſtern iſlands; £3,711 : 15 : 0 to J. F. W. de Barres for engraving his ſurveys of the coaſt of Nova Scotia; £46,846 : 9 : 3 to the bank for the expenſe of receiving the deficient gold coin of the kingdom; and £22,824 : 19 : 0 for extraordinary charges incurred in the mint: alſo £5,000 for cleaning the channel and repairing the harbour at Barbados. There was likewiſe the ſum of £880,000 voted for paying off one million of the three-per-cent funds. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 42.]

The obligation, laid upon the Eaſt-India company, to export the annual quantity of Britiſh goods, appointed by a former act, to their ſettlements in India, was prolonged from the 29th of September 1775 to the 29th of September 1778. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 44.]

The Iriſh were now allowed to clothe and accoutre that part of the army, which is paid by them, though ſerving out of Ireland, with the manufactures of Ireland as well as thoſe of Great Britain, and to export ſuch goods to the places where they ſerve. And for the encouragement of the linen manufacture in Ireland, an additional bounty of 5/ per hogſhead was allowed on flax-ſeed imported into Ireland during the years 1776 and 1777. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 45.]

The proſperous manufacturing town of Mancheſter being now ſufficiently populous and opulent to ſupport the expenſe of elegant and rational entertainments, a theatre was licenced there on the ſame footing as other theatres. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 47.] This circumſtance, as an effect of the ſucceſs of perſevering induſtry is not unworthy of a place in commercial hiſtory.

The circulation of notes under twenty ſhillings, with certain conditions and reſtrictions, being found a great hardſhip upon the lower claſs of manufacturers, labourers, and others, it was ordered by parliament, that all ſuch notes ſhould be paid upon demand, notwithſtanding any

conditions contained in them to the contrary, and that no more ſuch ſhould be iſſued *. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 51.]

Mr. William Cookworthy of Plymouth having diſcovered a method of making an earthen ware from moor-ſtone, growan, and growan clay, (foſſiles quite common in Devon-ſhire and Cornwall) poſſeſſing the beautiful colour, the ſmooth grain, and the quality of ſuſtaining the action of the ſtrongeſt fire without fuſion, which are the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtics of the genuine porcelain of China, had got the king's patent, for fourteen years from the 8th of March 1768, for the ſole making and vending of porcelain ſo manufactured. He having diſpoſed of his patent to Mr. Champion, a merchant in Briſtol, the term was now prolonged by parliament to the later for other fourteen years in order to encourage the manufacture. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 52.]

Mr. James Watt, a merchant in Glaſgow, having diſcovered ſome very important improvements in applying ſteam as a moving power in machinery, had got the king's patent for fourteen years, not only for England, but alſo for all the colonies. But, finding the term of fourteen years ſcarcely ſufficient to render his invention public, he applied to parliament for a prolongation of his excluſive privilege: and in conſideration of the great utility of his invention in carrying on many great and expenſive works, he obtained a renewal of his privilege for twenty-five years from the date of the act, and for all Great Britain and the colonies. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 61.]

The ſmall harbour of Mevagiſſey on the ſouth coaſt of Cornwall being very conveniently ſituated for the pilchard fiſhery, truſtees were appointed to raiſe money, and build a pier for the protection of the veſſels, and to levy a tunnage duty for defraying the expenſe. [15 *Geo. III, c.* 62.]

There were alſo, as uſual, many acts for inland navigations, for the improvement of towns and roads, and for incloſures, &c.

May 21st—On the death of Sujah Dowlah, nabob of Oude, a new treaty was made with his ſon Azuf ul Dowlah, whereby the Eaſt-India company added the province of Benares, with a clear revenue of £240,000 a-year, to their territorial acquiſitions.

June—About 700 emigrants, moſtly Highlanders, ſailed in four veſſels from the Clyde for America, being the laſt conſiderable acceſſion, in one embarkation, to the population of America. Soon after all emigration to America, now a hoſtile country, was prohibited by authority.

Captain Cook ſailed on a ſecond voyage of diſcovery in July 1772, having under his command the Reſolution and Adventure, two ſhips particularly well adapted for ſuch a ſervice, and accompanied by offi-

* Sir George Saville, when he brought in this bill, obſerved, that there were notes circulating in York-ſhire from five ſhillings down to ſix pence, to the great injury of the induſtrious manufacturers, who were thereby totally deprived of the uſe of ſilver money.

cers, moſt of whom were aſtronomers and geographers as well as navigators, and alſo by Meſſieurs Wales and Bailey as profeſſed aſtronomers, Meſſieurs Forſter ſenior and junior as naturaliſts, and Mr. Hodges as landſcape-painter. The object of this voyage was to determine the long conteſted queſtion, whether the unexplored part of the ſouthern hemiſphere were only a vaſt expanſe of water, or contained another continent, as ſpeculative geographers had long ſuppoſed, from a preſumed neceſſity of a balance of land in the northern and ſouthern hemiſpheres.

Beſides diſcovering and exploring many iſlands in the ſouthern temperate zone, he made a complete circuit of the Southern ocean in two ſucceſſive ſummers in thoſe latitudes wherein the maps uſed to exhibit their *Terra auſtralis*, or great ſouthern continent: and three times he went within the Antarctic circle (once as far as the latitude of 71° 10′) which no navigator ever entered before, and, we may venture to ſay, no one will ever enter again. Having thus aſcertained, to the ſatisfaction of all mankind, that no land of any great extent can poſſibly exiſt in the ſouthern polar regions, unleſs ſo near the pole as to be utterly uſeleſs and inacceſſible, and alſo that the ſouthern polar regions are much colder, and the ſeas in them more incumbered with ice, and that they are conſequently leſs fit for the purpoſes of cultivation or navigation, than thoſe of the correſponding northern latitudes, he arrived in England in July 1775.

While Captain Cook was employed in exploring the ſouthern polar regions, Mr. de Kerguelen, a French navigator, was alſo engaged in a ſimilar purſuit. In the beginning of the year 1772 he had found land, ſituated in 49° ſouth latitude, and 69° eaſt longitude from Greenwich, whence he returned, rather precipitately, to France, where he was received as a ſecond Columbus, on the faith of having diſcovered the celebrated *Terra auſtralis*, the exiſtence of which was then almoſt univerſally believed. In the year 1773 he ſailed again with two ſhips of war, carrying 64 and 32 guns and 700 men to complete his diſcovery, and to take poſſeſſion of the great Southern continent for the crown of France. But alas! the mountain of high expectation ſcarcely brought forth a mouſe. The object of this unwieldy armament turned out to be an iſland of no very great extent, and ſo miſerably barren, that it produces not a tree or ſhrub of any kind, and very little graſs. It has no human inhabitants, and ſcarcely any land animals: nor does the ſea around it appear to be more productive than the land. Kerguelen could not in either of his voyages even find anchorage for his ſhips in any of the numerous harbours of his land of promiſe; and we are chiefly indebted for our knowlege of its condition to Captain Cook, who viſited it in his third voyage in December 1776, and who ſays, that he ſhould

called it the *Iſland of Deſolation*, but that he would not rob Mr. de Kerguelen of the honour of giving his name to it *.

Auguſt 23d—In conſequence of the war broke out in America, the king in council prohibited gun-powder, arms, and ammunition, to be exported, or even to be carried along the coaſt, till the ſtricteſt inquiries were gone through, and ample ſecurity given for the true delivery of them according to the profeſſed intention of the ſhippers †.

The prohibition immediately gave birth to a vaſt number of applications, eſpecially from the merchants concerned in the African trade.

October 30th—The board of trade having obſerved, in conſequence of a petition from Liverpool, 'that gun-powder, arms, and ammunition, 'are eſſential and commanding articles in the African trade,' and 'that 'both policy and juſtice require, that no reſtrictions ſhould be put 'upon this trade, which are not eſſentially neceſſary for public ſafety,' propoſed, 'that each ſhip clearing out for the coaſt of Africa for the 'purpoſe of carrying on the trade for ſlaves, ivory, and gold, may be 'allowed to take onboard, as an aſſorted part of her cargo, as much 'gun-powder, and as large a quantity of trading guns ‡, piſtols, cut-'laſſes, flints, and lead balls, bars, and ſhot, as the exporters ſhall think 'neceſſary, provided that ſecurity be given to the principal officers of 'the cuſtoms of the port in which ſhe is fitted out, before the ſhip pro-'ceeds on her voyage, in treble the value of the articles ſo exported, 'that the ſame ſhall be expended in trade upon the coaſt.'

December 12th—The government of Grenada (or the Ceded iſlands) was again divided; and Valentine Morris Eſq. was appointed the firſt governor of St. Vincents, now a ſeparate government; Sir George Macartney being appointed governor of Grenada, and the Grenadines together with Tobago.

December 23d—An act of parliament was paſſed, whereby all intercourſe with the revolted colonies, (comprehending the whole extent of the coaſt from New Hampſhire to Georgia incluſive) was ſtrictly prohibited; and all veſſels, whether belonging to the revolted colonies or to neutral nations, found trading to the coaſts of America, were declared lawful prizes to any ſhip of war or privateer which ſhould ſeize them; excepting only veſſels in the ſervice of government, or veſſels duely authorized to ſail to ſuch ports as were in the king's allegiance. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 5.]

'Whereas many advantages both to commerce and ſcience may be

* See *Cook's Third voyage, cc.* v, vi.—*Peroufe's Voyage, V.* i, *p.* 259 *of Engliſh tranſlation*, 1799.—I have not ſeen the accounts publiſhed by Kerguelen and his lieutenant De Pages.

† A precautionary proclamation of a ſimilar nature, to be in force for ſix months, had been iſſued 19th October 1774.

‡ Theſe guns are ſtated in the petitions to coſt from 5/6 to 7/6, and are ſaid to be fit for no other trade.

' expected from the diſcovery of any northern paſſage for veſſels by ſea ' between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans,' a reward of £20,000 was offered to the commander and ſeamen of any ſhip belonging to his Majeſty, or to the owners and company of any merchant ſhip, which ſhould diſcover ſuch a paſſage to the northward of 52° of north latitude. A reward of £5,000 was alſo offered to the firſt ſhip which ſhould reach the latitude of 89°, ſuch a near approach to the pole being conſidered as a very great advance to the deſired paſſage *. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 6.]

As the great trade, which the merchants of Glaſgow carried on with the tobacco colonies, was now to be interrupted, if not aboliſhed, I here inſert a ſhort view of their imports of that article in the courſe of this year.

From Virginia,	Maryland,	North Carolina:	Total.
40,854	15,040	1,249	57,143 hhds.

Their importations from Jamaica and the other ſugar iſlands were

4,621 hhds, 691 tierces, and 462 barrels, of ſugar,
1,154 puncheons, and 193 barrels, of rum,
and 503 bags of cotton.

The whole of theſe imports employed about 60,000 tuns of ſhipping.

The factors, whom the Glaſgow merchants had eſtabliſhed in America, by their prudent exertions, and the friendly terms on which they generally were with the planters, had been enabled to make large remittances to their conſtituents, before matters were brought to the laſt extremity. But very large ſums ſtill remained due, and as many of the merchants had the greateſt part of their fortunes embarked in that trade, the event proved ruinous to ſome of them, and would have been more generally fatal, had not the great riſe on the price of tobacco in ſome meaſure made amends for the deficiency of their remittances, and enabled moſt of them to bear up againſt the general ſhock.

Mr. Humphry Jackſon brought to perfection a method of ſeaſoning timber for ſhip-building, ſo as to make it reſiſt putrefaction and admit no water within its pores, whereby ſhips may be rendered not only more durable, but alſo more wholeſome to live in, and may carry a greater burthen by being more buoyant: and ſome ſhips of war, built of timber ſo prepared, were found to poſſeſs all theſe qualities. About this time alſo the method of laying the waves of the ſea in a ſtorm by the ſimple operation of pouring a little oil upon it, which had already been known to illiterate people in various parts of the world, began to attract the attention of philoſophers, by whoſe writings it was made

* This act was paſſed in contemplation of Captain Cook's third voyage of diſcovery, a brief account of which will be found in the tranſactions of the year 1780, when it was concluded. The former act of 18 Geo. II, c. 17 allowed the reward only to private ſhips, and confined the ſearch to Hudſon's bay, where, it was now known, there was ſcarcely a poſſibility of finding a paſſage.

more generally known. Both theſe diſcoveries may be of great ſervice in naval affairs.

The Britiſh miniſter at Hamburgh tranſmitted the following ſtatement of the value of the Britiſh and French imports at that city and Bremen.

	Hamburgh.	Bremen.
From Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Weſt-Indies	£1,030,316: 7:0	£224,645: 8:0
From France - - -	1,270,627: 14:0	237,524: 10:0

Of 768 trading veſſels, which arrived at Hamburgh this year, 262 were Britiſh; and of the whole there were 242 from Britiſh ports. It is worthy of remark, that of 32 veſſels, which arrived from Shetland with herrings, there were 28 Daniſh, 2 Pruſſian, only 2 Dutch, and *none* Britiſh.

The following account of the quantity of Britiſh-plantation ſugar imported into Great Britain, and of raw and refined ſugar exported, during the under-mentioned years, is taken from an account made up by the inſpector-general of the cuſtoms.

	Imported.			Exported.					
Years.	Raw ſugar.			Raw ſugar.			Refined ſugar.		
	cwt.	qr.	lb.	cwt.	qr.	lb.	cwt.	qr.	lb.
1760	1,374,720	2	5	143,683	1	23	58,650	3	18
1761	1,491,317	3	16	393,324	0	13	108,891	1	7
1762	1,444,581	1	4	322,253	2	7	87,033	2	23
1763	1,732,174	1	5	413,199	3	22	102,514	3	19
1764	1,488,079	0	15	197,579	0	25	176,302	3	23
1765	1,227,159	3	18	149,125	1	5	114,851	2	0
1766	1,522,732	2	19	129,236	2	4	27,602	0	10
1767	1,538,834	1	8	209,533	1	25	35,968	1	12
1768	1,651,512	2	14	227,193	3	21	39,273	2	27
1769	1,525,070	0	5	216,384	0	0	34,041	2	16
1770	1,818,229	1	23	199,738	1	9	43,609	1	19
1771	1,492,096	2	24	193,859	1	1	55,210	0	13
1772	1,786,045	0	1	173,661	1	3	31,300	3	23
1773	1,762,387	3	15	186,649	3	19	29,543	3	26
1774	2,015,911	1	15	223,254	1	27	34,089	0	14
1775	2,002,224	3	8	345,012	2	0	69,790	3	20

Tobacco being an article of very conſiderable importance to the commerce, and alſo to the revenue, of Great Britain, and the principal article of the imports from America to this country, I have compiled, from ſeveral official returns of the cuſtom-houſes of England and Scotland, the following retroſpect of the imports and exports of Britiſh-plantation tobacco, and alſo of the groſs and net duties upon it received by government, from the beginning of the year 1761 to the interruption of the trade by the war.

	England.				Scotland.			
	imported, pounds.	exported, pounds.	gross duty, £	net duty, £	imported, pounds.	exported, pounds.	gross duty, £	net duty, £
1761	47,065,787	36,788,944	1,225,672	267,626	24,048,380	23,525,326	699,741	15,219
1762	44,102,491	36,445,951	1,148,502	199,389	27,339,433	26,694,999	795,502	18,751
1763	65,173,752	40,940,312	1,697,232	631,079	31,613,170	30,613,738	919,719	28,944
1764	54,433,318	54,058,336	1,417,534	9,765	26,310,219	25,902,170	765,498	11,817
1765	48,306,593	39,121,423	1,257,984	230,197	33,889,565	33,379,201	986,092	14,850
1766	43,307,453	32,986,790	1,127,798	268,707	32,175,223	31,723,205	936,131	13,074
1767	30,140,639	36,400,398	1,019,287	71,360	29,385,343	28,871,522	854,893	14,812
1768	35,545,708	30,864,536	925,669	121,905	33,261,427	32,483,543	967,697	22,516
1769	33,784,208	23,703,272	870,797	260,181	35,920,685	34,714,630	1,044,062	34,863
1770	39,187,037	33,238,437	1,020,496	154,011	39,226,354	38,498,522	1,141,279	21,078
1771	58,079,183	41,430,386	1,512,479	433,328	49,312,146	48,488,681	1,434,846	23,961
1772	51,493,522	49,784,009	1,340,977	44,519	43,748,415	42,806,548	1,272,957	27,406
1773	55,928,957	50,349,967	1,456,983	145,780	44,485,194	43,595,102	1,294,396	25,899
1774	56,048,393	44,829,835	1,459,594	292,150	40,457,580	39,533,552	1,177,203	26,887
1775	55,965,463	43,880,865	1,457,434		55,927,542		1,627,336	

The quantities and value of the produce of the French Weft-India ſettlements imported into France this year, and the number of ſhips employed in the trade, which may be averaged at 300 tuns burthen, as alſo the quantities and value of the ſame produce exported from France this year, were as follows *.

	France imported from				Value.			France exported	Value.		
	St. Domingo	Martinique	Guadaloupe	Cayenne	£.	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Sugar, pounds	123,067,370	24,443,858	18,838,606	4,000	61,849,381	1	9	104,099,860	38,703,720	7	2
Coffee, pounds	45,033,941	9,688,968	6,302,902	65,888	29,421,039	10	6	50,058,246	23,757,464	16	1
Indigo, pounds	1,808,629	114,708	143,827	334	17,573,733	0	0	1,130,638	9,610,423	0	0
Cacao, pounds	578,764	865,603	102,359	15,241	1,093,419	10	0	794,275	555,992	10	0
Rocou or arnotto, pounds	51,861			300,355	220,369	10	0	153,178	95,838	5	3
Cotton, pounds	2,689 282	1,101,240	519,375	97,260	11,017,892	10	0	102,011	255,027	10	0
Hides, number	14,124	919	747	353	180,078	0	0	568	5,112	0	0
Turtle-ſhell, pounds	4,346	2,910	1,656		89,120	0	0	100	1,000	0	0
Caſſia fiſtula, pounds	9,019	196,035	1,262		55,752	9	0	120,759	32,604	18	8
Woods, pounds	9,274,692	12,500	12,500	142,208	922,222	7	5	4,180,820	408,355	2	9
Small-articles					1,352,148	0	0				
Silver coin					2,000,000	0	0				
Total value					126,375,155	18	8		73,425,538	9	11
Ships employed in carrying the produce of each colony	353	122	81	6	total ſhips	562					

* This account is taken from the Table at the end of Raynal's ſeventh volume. He exchanges £22 : 10 : 0 French money for £1 ſterling; and thence the total amount of the imports is £5,616,672 : 16 : 4½, and of the exports £3,263,356 : 12 : 10½ ſterling.

Beſides theſe exports to the mother country, a conſiderable quantity of their produce, including, perhaps, the whole of their melaſſes, was carried openly, or clandeſtinely, to the Britiſh colonies in North America, in return for which the French coloniſts received proviſions, lumber, and money. This trade was wholely carried on in American veſſels.

There belonged this year to all the ports of
England 7,549 veſſels of the reputed burthen of 605,974 tuns,
and of Scotland 1,559 - - - - - 91,330

Total - 9,108 - - - - - 697,304

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	9,247	943,271	1,248	135,491	10,495	1,078,762
Outward -	9,719	888,854	618	67,752	10,337	965,606

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London, - £2,481,031 : 5 : 7

The Scottiſh revenue of the cuſtoms was ſtill ſo much exhauſted in paying fiſhery bounties, drawbacks, &c. as to leave no balance to be remitted to the exchequer.

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year
104,895 pounds of gold, value - - £4,901,218 : 17 : 6
and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1774 to Chriſtmas 1775 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into						Exported from					
	ENGLAND.			SCOTLAND.			ENGLAND.			SCOTLAND.		
Africa	£67,328	6	3				£786,168	2	8			
Canaries	8,676	2	7				39,045	8	6			
Denmark and Norway	122,967	1	10	£36,036	7	6	220,838	14	5	£14,295	14	4
East country	381,838	15	2				73,254	16	9			
East-India	1,091,845	18	4				1,040,642	2	2			
Flanders	103,991	13	8				973,353	13	4			
France	67,481	15	5	5,638	5	7	258,157	11	7	246,297	2	9
Germany	660,763	4	5	22,864	15	4	1,545,014	5	11	67,852	14	0
Greenland	22,224	15	8	2,834	0	9	11	5	9			
Holland	513,561	16	6	131,414	13	5	1,867,400	11	6	329,944	2	9
Ireland	1,486,325	3	6	137,694	14	1	2,160,608	18	3	283,063	8	5
Mann	10,316	15	11	101	17	9	21,043	9	9	16	16	0
Italy	818,171	7	11	22,948	6	0	1,003,528	4	7	4,539	1	0
Madeira	2,221	11	11				22,064	7	5			
Poland				6,022	10	8				1,758	18	2
Portugal	367,093	4	1	16,811	0	2	632,989	4	8	1,142	11	4
Prussia				15,540	16	3				127	18	6
Russia	1,016,280	10	8	136,337	4	8	213,121	19	5	3,678	13	8
Spain	564,386	6	0	12,893	11	9	1,205,215	2	9	46,274	6	1
Gibraltar				43	18	1				5,338	8	11
Straits	4,723	6	5				33,578	6	11			
Sweden	237,041	17	11	41,962	15	9	110,001	4	8	3,698	8	2
Teneriffe				82	17	0						
Turkey	168,882	12	9				226,997	1	4			
Venice	88,412	12	10				79,118	8	2			
Guernsey, &c.	34,837	17	7	779	6	9	63,489	12	9	112	10	0
America in general				540,860	6	5				41,637	4	5
Hudson's bay	7,412	0	0				5,653	17	6			
Newfoundland	50,331	16	2				123,067	4	5			
Quebec	74,212	14	9				472,368	4	8			
Nova-Scotia	2,622	11	5				56,306	7	0			
New-England	116,583	1	4				71,625	4	0			
New-York	187,018	4	5				1,228	2	6			
Pennsylvania	175,962	17	1				1,366	8	0			
Maryland and Virginia	758,356	11	9				1,921	11	5			
Carolina	579,549	13	6				6,245	9	6			
Georgia	103,477	1	3				113,777	15	10			
Florida	21,504	19	0				85,254	7	10			
West-Indies in general				136,520	18	4				83,220	2	0
Anguilla	1,797	1	1									
Antigua	353,563	4	0				168,092	1	9			
Barbados	112,971	12	3				138,384	15	9			
Bermuda	0	13	4				13,405	18	4			
Dominica	185,131	12	5				62,945	2	10			
Grenada	486,035	15	4				139,946	0	3			
Jamaica	1,653,735	15	5				786,728	10	5			
Montserrat	56,815	12	6				24,323	7	6			
Nevis	71,463	19	9				17,014	9	7			
New-Providence	2,962	4	10				14,799	16	8			
St. Croix	4,637	0	10				67	4	0			
St. Chriſtophers	282,019	14	6				125,264	9	6			
St. Thomas	1,346	10	5				1,218	3	10			
St. Vincents	164,199	11	6				69,246	14	11			
Tobago	75,984	6	0				39,332	10	7			
Tortola	64,526	7	10				34,524	14	0			
Honduras bay	43,180	6	4				3,639	4	9			
Muſquito ſhore	7,849	18	6				13,639	6	3			
Falkland's iſlands							6,335	17	0			
Imp. and exp. of England	13,548,467	10	11				15,202,365	13	10			
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	1,267,388	6	3	1,267,388	6	3	1,123,998	0	6	1,123,998	0	6
Total, Great Britain	14,815,855	17	2				16,326,363	14	4			

1776—About the beginning of the year 1776 a worthy citizen of London, who had unfortunately failed in buſineſs ſome years before, and had now, by the bleſſing of God upon his honeſt induſtry, again got above the world, called a meeting of his creditors, and honourably paid them every ſhilling he owed them. The name of this honeſt man, though unknown to me, deſerves to be enrolled in the temple of Virtuous Fame, along with that of Sir Stephen Theodore Janſſen, whoſe conduct I have already gratified my feelings by making honourable mention of in the tranſactions of the year 1765.

The 20th of January was the day appointed by the congreſs of America, if the obnoxious acts of the Britiſh parliament ſhould not then be repealed, for diſcharging all the officers of the cuſtoms acting under authority derived from the Britiſh government, and for opening all their ports to the ſhips of all nations, who ſhould be deſirous of trading with them, for the reception of all merchandize, except teas and the produce and manufacture of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Weſt Indies *. And, in order to encourage foreigners to reſort to their ports, they declared, that, in caſe of a reconciliation with Great Britain, they ſhould, notwithſtanding, remain open to them for two years after it.

March 3d—The iſland of New Providence was taken by an American ſquadron, conſiſting of two frigates and five ſmall veſſels from Philadelphia, commanded by Commodore Hopkins, who immediately quitted the place without leaving any garriſon to keep poſſeſſion, and carried off the governor with him.

At a court of proprietors of Eaſt-India ſtock it appeared, that the loan of £1,400,000, granted by government to the company, was now reduced to the ſum of £420,000; and that the affairs of the company were in general in a proſperous condition.

Very different was the ſituation of the Dutch Eaſt-India company. Their charter had expired in the year 1773, and the States-general had then given them a ſhort renewal of three years, in order to have time to inveſtigate the juſtice of the plea ſet up by the company for a diminution of the ſum they uſed to pay for a renewal, on account of the declining ſtate of their trade. Having found upon an inveſtigation, that the company had actually ſuſtained very great loſſes, whereby their circumſtances and their trade were greatly reduced, the States-general granted them a new charter for thirty years, on paying two millions of florins (inſtead of three millions paid for the former charter) and a yearly payment of 360,000 florins, which they were indulged with the liberty of making either in money or goods. Immediately after the renewal of their charter the price of their ſtock roſe nineteen per cent.

* We ſhall have occaſion to ſee, that theſe exceptions were not very ſtrictly adhered to.

March 25th—The permiſſion to import cattle and ſalted proviſions from Ireland free of duty, which had hitherto been allowed by temporary acts, was now made perpetual. But America, having become a hoſtile, if not a foreign, country, was now totally excluded from the trade. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 8.]

The free importation of tallow, hog's lard, and greaſe, was prolonged till the 25th of March 1779. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 12.]

To accommodate the inland trade in iron, lime, potter's clay, and coals, at Coalbrooke dale, which was frequently obſtructed by the inſufficiency of the ferry on the Severn at that place, truſtees were appointed and empowered to build a bridge over the river of caſt iron or any other material, and to take tolls upon it; no ferry-boats being permitted to ply within 500 yards of the bridge, unleſs it ſhall happen to be in a dangerous condition. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 17.] This bridge of caſt iron, which was the firſt of the kind ever executed, has ſince been followed by ſeveral others.

Conſiderable improvements in the conſtruction of engines for making blocks, ſheeves, and pins, for ſhips, in iron, braſs, and wood, having been invented by Walter Taylor blockmaker in Portſmouth, he obtained the king's patent for fourteen years, as uſual: and ſeveral improvements having been made after his death by his ſon, a further term of fourteen years was granted to him by parliament, to be computed from the expiration of his father's patent. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 18.]

April 2d—It was now difficult to find ſeamen in ſufficient numbers for the ſervices of war and commerce; and therefor merchant veſſels were allowed to carry foreign ſeamen for three fourths of their complement. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 20.]

The corporation of Boſton in Lincoln-ſhire, and a number of commiſſioners aſſociated with them, were empowered to improve the harbour and town of Boſton, and to regulate the pilots. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 23.]

May—The ſociety of merchant venturers of Briſtol were empowered to enlarge the floating dock, formerly made by them, and to build a new quay and proper warehouſes for ſtoring goods. Regulations were alſo made to prevent combuſtible articles lying too long on the quay, and for other matters of harbour police. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 33.]

Additional taxes were laid on wheel carriages (except hackney coaches) indentures, bonds, newſpapers, parchment, playing cards, and dice. And two millions were borrowed on the terms of £77 : 10 : 0 in the three-per-cent funds, and three lottery tickets, for every £100 paid by the ſubſcribers. In this year's lottery the old plan was revived, whereby the government retained the whole price of the tickets, and paid an annuity on the amount of the prizes at the rate of three per cent; ſo that a prize of £10,000 was an income of £300 a-year, or

worth whatever that income in the funds would ſell for. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 34.]

The regulations for conducting the fiſhery for pilchards in the Bay of S^t. Ives, on the coaſt of Cornwall, were ſanctioned by parliament. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 36.]

The fiſheries on the Banks of Newfoundland and in the Gulf of S^t. Laurence, having felt their ſhare of the hardſhips which the American war had brought upon all the iſlands belonging to the Britiſh empire in the Atlantic ocean, the permiſſion to export proviſions, contained in the act 14 Geo. III, c. 5 which was almoſt confined to the ſugar iſlands, was now extended to S^t. Helena and the other ſettlements belonging to the Eaſt-India company, and for biſcuit and peas to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Labrador. The exportation was permitted till the 1^st of January 1777, and was reſtricted to the following ports and quantities.

	For the ſugar iſlands.	For the fiſheries of Newfoundland, &c.	
	Wheat, wheat-flour, bread, biſcuit, & meal.	Biſcuit.	Peas.
London	50,000 quarters.	850 tuns.	1,200 quarters.
Briſtol	20,000	650	850
Liverpool	20,000	150	130
Glaſgow	10,000		
Poole	-	600	600
Dartmouth	-	800	800
Topſham and Teignmouth	-	1,000	1,200
Weymouth	-	60	120
Cheſter	-	120	120

And the ſupplies, allowed for the Eaſt-India company's ſettlements, were not to exceed 10,000 quarters of wheat, meal, rye, &c. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

The act [14 *Geo. III, c.* 77] for the diſcharge of inſolvent debtors was renewed with ſome additional clauſes. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 38.]

A bounty of 5*ſ* per hogſhead was allowed on flax-ſeed from the United provinces or Auſtrian Netherlands, imported into Ireland, for two years, to be reckoned from 1^st January 1776. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 41.] This article had for many years been imported from Philadelphia to the amount of about 300,000 buſhels annually. Since the American war the Iriſh have fallen into the practice of ſaving their own ſeed, which they find anſwer very well.

The puniſhment of tranſportation to America was changed to that of hard labour in raiſing ſand, ſoil, and gravel, from the ſhoals in the River Thames, for ſturdy convicts; and to labour in confinement for female convicts, and for ſuch males as are incapable of hard labour. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 43.]

It being found that a profitable whale fiſhery may be carried on in ſeas ſouth of 44 degrees north latitude, premiums from £100 to £500, to continue for eleven years, were offered by parliament to the five ſhips, owned, and carrying men and apprentices, agreeable to the regulations enacted for the Greenland ſhips, fitted out after the 1st of Auguſt *, and returning to port before the 1st of November, which ſhould bring home the five largeſt quantities of oil, each being the produce of at leaſt one whale caught by them. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 47.]

Truſtees were appointed to erect a light-houſe, and to place landmarks and buoys for the harbour of Cheſter, and to regulate the pilots, &c. [16 *Geo. III, c.* 61.]

Several acts for inland navigations, improvements of towns, &c. were alſo paſſed in the courſe of this ſeſſion.

About the beginning of this year Meſſieurs Blair and Irving had lately begun to expreſs oil for the uſe of the woollen manufactures from vegetables produced on the Muſquito ſhore, in which country a form of government ſubordinate to that of Jamaica had been eſtabliſhed. But their buſineſs was broken up on the 30th of April by a piratical ſeizure of a veſſel belonging to them, as ſhe lay at anchor in the road of Black river, by two Spaniſh guarda-coſtas, who carried her to Porto-bello.

During the ſeſſion of parliament the old eſtabliſhed merchants in the American trade made loud complaints, that the ſuppreſſion of commercial intercourſe with America was in a great meaſure illuſive, and that the trade was only changed into a monopoly in the hands of a ſet of obſcure pretended merchants, who, by an abuſe of the licences granted for carrying out neceſſary ſtores and proviſions for the army, and by clearing out their veſſels for Boſton, Halifax, or Quebec, *with liberty to go to any other port in America*, ſent out large cargoes of all kinds of merchandize, and managed their buſineſs with great ſecurity under the ſhelter of that very prohibitory act, which they were ſo groſsly violating. The buſineſs was brought under the conſideration of parliament; but from the public attention being taken up with the ducheſs of Kingſton's trial, or from ſome other cauſe, the inquiry miſcarried †.

Hitherto the American war, which, according to the predictions of ſome politicians, was to bring with it the utter ruin of the commerce of Great Britain, was not found to be ſo very diſtreſsful to commerce,

* By that time the Greenland ſhips are generally returned into port.

† While this affair was under inveſtigation, it appeared, that one of thoſe nominal merchants, who loaded no leſs than five large ſhips with valuable cargoes, had carried about a letter from a perſon, who filled a very conſiderable office in the ſervice of government, in order to obtain credit for goods in the city, where he was utterly unknown. Thus this worthy gentleman behind the curtain, who was the real exporter, (for the nominal merchant was only his tool) not content with enjoying a great income out of the revenue drawn from the commerce of the country, wanted to engroſs and drain the very fountains, whence his emoluments flowed, and whence he had derived the capital he was now making ſo bad a uſe of.

as even moderate men apprehended it would have been: and there were many circumſtances, which greatly alleviated the calamities, inſeparable from a ſtate of hoſtility. Among the firſt of theſe may be reckoned the integrity wherewith many of the merchants in America diſcharged their obligations to their correſpondents here, before the total interruption of friendly intercourſe took place; and the advanced prices, which American produce ſold for on the proſpect of an approaching ſcarcity. The war itſelf, if it turned many ſhips, formerly engaged in the American trade, out of employ, found employment for perhaps fully as many in tranſporting the forces acroſs the Atlantic, with all their neceſſary ſtores, including horſes, live cattle, ſheep, and hogs, and even hay for their ſupport after being landed in America, fuel for the fires, and, in ſhort, every minute article of neceſſary expenditure *; ſo that the veſſels and ſeamen were ſtill employed, though not, as formerly, in advancing the commercial proſperity of the nation. Another branch of trade alſo took its riſe in ſome degree from this war. The American whale-fiſhers, when they found the whales ſcarce in their own ſeas, uſed to ſtretch over to the coaſt of Ireland, and often as far as Africa, Braſil, and even the remote Falkland's iſlands, in purſuit of the ſpermaceti whales, the moſt valuable of the cetaceous tribes. That fiſhery being given up in conſequence of the war, many of the harpooneers were induced to enter into the ſervice of Britiſh merchants, who fitted out veſſels for the Newfoundland and Southern whale fiſheries. For the later, which was quite a new buſineſs in this country, there were equipped fifteen veſſels of about 170 tuns, and each carrying four American harpooneers; and though their acquiſitions were only about forty or fifty tuns of oil for each veſſel, yet the ſuperior quality, and the price of it advanced by the war from £35 to £70 per tun, were ſufficient to encourage the merchants to perſevere in the buſineſs †. To all theſe we may add an increaſed demand for goods in Ruſſia and Turkey in conſequence of the recent peace between thoſe empires, and alſo in Poland in conſequence of the pacification after the partition of that country. Even the warlike preparations of Spain at this time againſt Algier made ſome extraordinary demand for Britiſh goods. Neither was the American trade totally loſt. It was only diverted from the direct, into circuitous, channels, by which Britiſh goods ſtill found their way into the territory of the United ſtates. For the invitation given by the Americans to all the world to reſort to their ports had no very great effect upon any of the nations of Europe, except the French, who, in the hopes of reaping golden harveſts from the ſpoils of Britiſh commerce, fitted

* Hay, oats, and beans, for a ſingle regiment of cavalry, ſhut up in Boſton, are ſaid to have coſt about £22,000. Vegetables and vinegar, with caſks to pack them in, amounted to an equal ſum.

† We ſhall hereafter have occaſion to ſee, that the Southern whale fiſhery has become an object of conſiderable magnitude and importance as a nurſery for ſeamen.

out ſome hundreds of veſſels for America: but ſuch was the vigilance of the Britiſh naval commanders, that, according to a French author, ſcarcely thirty of the whole of them returned to France, and theſe made but very unprofitable voyages for their owners. [*Raynal V.* ix, *p.* 211.] The trade carried on by the Americans, in their own veſſels, and entirely at their own riſk, with the French, Dutch, and Daniſh iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, was more conſiderable and had alſo a longer continuance. The traders of theſe iſlands, however, ſoon found, that the articles of the fabric of their own mother countries, wherewith they hoped to ſupplant the Britiſh manufactures, were not ſo acceptable in America; and that, notwithſtanding the interdiction of Britiſh goods by the congreſs, they muſt be provided with Britiſh goods, if they expected to have American buyers *. Theſe iſlands were therefor ſoon filled with Britiſh manufactures, which were exchanged for American proviſions, lumber, tobacco, and other produce, to the great emolument of the dealers on both ſides; but with a very great additional expenſe to the American conſumer. And thus the Britiſh manufacturers of goods for the American trade were as fully employed as before; and only the freights were loſt, which was the leſs felt, as ſuch prodigious numbers of merchant ſhips were immediately taken up in the ſervice of government as armed ſhips and tranſports, and the ſwift-ſailing veſſels were ſoon afterwards converted into privateers.

On the firſt of May the regulation took place, which is ſtill in force, for limiting the ſmalleſt weight, at which guineas ſhould paſs current, to five pennyweights eight grains. But guineas coined prior to 1st January 1772 were to be received in payments to the revenue till the 19th of Auguſt 1776, though two grains lighter.

* The following extract from Lord Sheffield's *Obſervations on the commerce of the American ſtates* [*p.* 10 *of* 2*d ed.*] contains ſuch proofs of what I have now advanced, that I think it proper to give it here, though a little anticipated in regard to chronology, in his lordſhip's own words.

'The following fact is a ſtriking proof of the 'ſuperiority of our woollens to the French in the 'opinion of the Americans. When France granted a ſum of money to congreſs for cloathing the 'American troops, Mr. Laurens junior was employed to provide it; but, inſtead of laying out 'the money in France, he went to Holland, and 'bought Engliſh cloths, and ſent them to America. The French miniſter was inſtructed to 'complain to congreſs of this tranſaction, ſo ungrateful and injurious to France; but Mr. Laurens juſtified himſelf by ſaying, it was his duty 'to do the beſt he could with the money, and that 'the Engliſh cloths, of equal price with the French, 'were much better. And farther to ſhew the preference given to Britiſh manufactures in the American ſtates, we need only recollect, that the importation of goods from this country, through a 'variety of channels, was ſo great during the war, 'that the French miniſter reſiding at Philadelphia 'remonſtrated againſt it more than once, before 'the leaſt attention was paid to him by congreſs. 'An act was then made, prohibiting the manufactures of this country under certain penalties; 'neverthelefs, they continued to be imported to 'ſo great a degree, that a remonſtrance from the 'court of France was preſented to congreſs, 'threatening to withdraw their aid, if more effectual means were not taken to prevent the importation of Britiſh goods, which, being accompanied with ſtrong recommendations from Doctor Franklin and the other commiſſioners in 'France, produced ſome effect. Some ſeizures 'of Britiſh manufactures were made, though imported through Holland. This ſeverity took 'place a little more than a year before the peace. 'In ſome inſtances the goods ſeized were returned 'to the owners. Prior to this the ſhopkeepers, '&c. uſed to advertiſe as Engliſh goods, what, in 'fact, were Dutch or French manufactures, in 'order to recommend them to the purchaſer.'

The governor and legiſlature of Bermuda, greatly alarmed at the power exerciſed in the Turk's iſlands by the governor and legiſlature of the Bahamas, ſent home a memorial, wherein they ſtated, that thoſe iſlands, originally diſcovered by their anceſtors, had been occupied by them for above a century without any interruption, except from hoſtile powers; and that in the reign of Queen Anne the Spaniards, after taking poſſeſſion of them, had been driven off by the Bermudians. They repreſented, that, ſince they had given up the culture of tobacco, which could be more profitably raiſed on the continent, they had no other method of employing their people than in raking ſalt on Turk's iſlands, and that of 800 people, now reſiding there for that purpoſe, 750 were Bermudians. That the pretenſions of Bahama to the ſuperiority of Turk's iſlands were quite new, and the interference of any other legiſlature than their own in a buſineſs hitherto carried on ſolely by themſelves muſt be ruinous to them and their families, and detrimental to the northern fiſheries and the general commerce of the Britiſh empire.

July 4th—The congreſs of America, laying aſide all thoughts of a reconciliation with the Britiſh government, iſſued a proclamation on the fourth day of July, whereby they declared THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *free and independent*, with 'full power to levy war, conclude peace, 'contract alliances, eſtabliſh commerce, and to do all other acts and 'things, which independent ſtates may of right do.' This day forms a new æra in America; and from it the dates of all public papers are dated in ſuch a year of their independence, as kings date theirs by the years of their reigns.

July—The people employed by the manufacturers in the neighbourhood of Shepton-Mallet in Somerſet-ſhire, being offended at the erection of ſome machinery in that town for the abridgement of labour in the woollen manufacture, aſſembled in a riotous manner, and deſtroyed the obnoxious machinery, before they could be diſperſed by the military.

All enlightened writers on the ſubject of commercial and political economy agree in the great advantage of the abridgement of labour, even to the very people, who feel ſome inconvenience on the firſt introduction of it, and have not ſufficient ſagacity to ſee that the extenſion of the manufacture muſt ſoon find increaſed, and more profitable, employment for them all. It is machinery that produces the great works of civilized nations with leſs manual labour than ſavage nations beſtow upon procuring a ſcanty ſubſiſtence, which ſcarcely keeps them alive. It is machinery that enables the Britiſh manufacturer to give higher wages to his workmen than thoſe of other nations do, while he furniſhes his goods ſo much cheaper, and alſo better (for machinery works with uniform regularity) that they obtain a decided preference in every

country on the face of the earth, and render the commerce of Great Britain the commerce of the world *.

It may be ſuppoſed to afford a ſufficient proof of the proſperous ſtate of Scotland, that money was now ſo plentiful in that country, that above half a million was about this time lent out at an intereſt of *three per cent*, and more was ready to be laid out on good ſecurity. As a further mark of the proſperity of Scotland, ſome ſhares of the Royal bank ſtock were ſold at £215, the higheſt price ever given before having been £201. But it may be doubted, whether the depreſſion of the rate of intereſt, and advance in the price of bank ſtock, were not, at leaſt partly, occaſioned by great ſums of money, which uſed to give life to a vigorous trade with America, being now for a time thrown out of employment, and, during the ſtagnation, thrown into the hands of the banks and bankers at *three* per cent, which they uſed to allow for money payable on demand †.

Auguſt 1ſt—A light-houſe was erected on the Smalls, a dangerous parcel of rocks in the Iriſh channel, with a light ſo well contrived as to be clearly diſtinguiſhed at the diſtance of nine leagues.

Auguſt—It being diſcovered that the Mediterranean paſſes, by which Britiſh veſſels are exempted from the depredations of the piratical cruiſers of the ſtates of Barbary, were frequently forged, they were all called in by proclamation, that new ones of a different form might be iſſued from the admiralty office, in order to remove any jealouſy, which the Moors might conceive, of the property of their enemies being protected by the Britiſh flag; and probably to prevent the Americans from benefiting by thoſe in their poſſeſſion.

October 26th—Mr. Stuart, ſuperintendant of Indian affairs in the ſouthern diſtrict of America, complained, that the traders, who went among the Indians, carried chiefly rum, and ſcarcely any uſeful goods, in conſequence of which the Indians were naked, diſcontented, and wretched. Of 30,000 gallons of rum lately imported at Penſacola, not one gallon was to be found in the ſtores in three months.

The Emperor of Germany made a new attempt to eſtabliſh a trade with the Eaſt-Indies, whereof Oſtend was to be the port, which about

* Much has alſo been ſaid, and written, by well-meaning people againſt the uſe of machinery, which, they ſay, by enabling one man, or boy, or girl, to do the work of twenty, throws nineteen out of employment. In anſwer to this, it muſt be acknowleged, that all human inſtitutions are liable to inconveniencies: but the workmen generally do find employment, if willing, during the time of the hardſhip conſequent upon the firſt introduction of a new piece of machinery; and ſoon after, ſometimes immediately, they feel the great benefit of an increaſed demand. The ſame objection is equally good againſt water mills and wind mills for grinding corn inſtead of hand mills, and againſt the uſe of the plough in agriculture, becauſe digging the ground with ſpades, would require more hands, as is well obſerved by Sir Frederic Morton Eden: and the ſame objections have repeatedly been made againſt canals. But canals and machinery will notwithſtanding continue to be encouraged by all wiſe governments, eſpecially in commercial nations.

† After this time, many of the merchants of Glaſgow threw their capitals into manufactures: but it requires time to effect the change.

the ſame time was improved by the addition of a magnificent wet dock or baſin. He alſo commiſſioned Mr. Bolts, who had been in India in the ſervice of the Engliſh Eaſt-India company, to make commercial and colonial ſettlements in Aſia or Africa. Mr. Bolts, in conjunction with ſome merchants of Flanders, fitted out a large ſhip at Leghorn, well armed, and loaded with a valuable cargo, and alſo carrying a body of people ſufficient to eſtabliſh a ſmall ſettlement. At Delagoa bay on the eaſt ſide of Africa he fixed his reſidence on a piece of ground purchaſed from the chiefs of the country. The principal article of trade in the place is ivory; but ſugar-canes, cotton, rice, and all the tropical productions grow luxuriantly. From this port he carried on a proſperous trade with India and the adjacent countries for about three years: and then the Portugueſe, who pretend to an excluſive right to the eaſtern coaſt of Africa, found means to undermine Bolts's intereſt at the Imperial court; the conſequence of which was, that the colony and the trade were given up to their mercy, and an armament, diſpatched from Goa, the principal Portugueſe ſettlement in India, deſtroyed their buildings, and carried off their ſhipping and property of every kind.

November 1ſt.—The expenſes of the lord-mayors of London for many years paſt had greatly exceeded the income attached to the office; ſo that the gentlemen, who had ſupported the dignity of the mayoralty, had been from two, to near four, thouſand pounds out of pocket in the courſe of the year. It was therefor reſolved, that ſome caſual emoluments, which uſed to be paid to the lord-mayor, ſhould henceforth be paid into the chamber of London, and that one thouſand pounds a-year ſhould be added to the fixed ſalary.

The fatal effects of American hoſtilities were earlieſt and moſt ſeverely felt by the Weſt-India colonies and thoſe concerned with them. The iſlands were greatly diſtreſſed by the failure of the accuſtomed ſupplies of American proviſions, and of lumber, almoſt as eſſential to them as proviſions. The inſurance on homeward-bound Weſt-India ſhips roſe to the enormous rate of *twenty-three per cent.* Nor were the underwriters at all benefited by thoſe high premiums, for the loſſes greatly exceeded the proportion on which the premiums were calculated. A fleet of about 120 ſail of ſhips was loaded and ready to ſail from Jamaica in July, when, on account of ſome diſcontents among the negroes, they were detained by the governor for about a month. The Americans were thereby apprized of the delay, and with extraordinary diſpatch fitted out a vaſt number of privateers, which took a great number of them. Many ſhips from the other iſlands alſo fell into their hands. And the whole value of ſhips and cargoes, taken by the Americans this year, was eſtimated to be conſiderably above a million of money, excluſive of tranſports and ſtore ſhips in the ſervice of government. On the other hand the Britiſh

cruiſers made prizes of great numbers of ſmall American veſſels bound to the foreign Weſt-India iſlands with cargoes of proviſions and lumber, which, though of trifling value, being carried into our iſlands, afforded them a ſeaſonable relief, though by no means adequate to their wants.

The following retroſpect of the Scottiſh herring fiſhery from the commencent of the bounties ſhows the ſlow progreſs it made during ſeveral years, its riſe to ſome degree of importance, the rapid decline of it in conſequence of the protracted and irregular payment of the bounty, and the good effect of the regular payment, which afterwards took place, at a reduced rate of bounty.

Years.	Vessels.	Tunnage.	Men and boys.	Barrels of herrings taken.	Bounty. £. s. d.
1751	2	148	33	213	Bounty at 30s. per tun.
1752	4	301	67	424	
1753	8	518	116	519	
1754	6	403	89	564	
1755	1	77	17	67	
1756	1	77	17	64	
1757	2	103	24	317	
1758	3	181	41	245	
1759	3	181	41	4	
1760	13	554	130	3,089	
1761	17	745	174	4,046	
1762	49	2,061	489	12,949½	Bounty 30s. per tun. 5,140 10 0
1763	87	3,691	865	3,054½	9,228 17 0
1764	119	5,131	1,206	8,831	12,828 0 8
1765	157	7,056	1,651	39,691	17,642 5 0
1766	261	12,476	2,881	21,146	irregularly paid. 31,190 15 0
1767	266	12,633	2,918	28,328	31,584 10 0
1768	207	9,692	2,241	15,620	24,232 2 6
1769	87	3,969	924	18,289	9,924 7 6
1770	19	861	201	1,878	2,154 15 10
1771	29 { summer fishing 4 / winter fishing 25	210 / 1,039	47 / 236	385 / 2,447	2,018 10 10
1772	169 { summer 95 / winter 74	4,029 / 3,373	948 / 789	8,480 / 13,759	Bounty 30s. per tun. 10,876 17 6
1773	190 { summer 86 / winter 104	3,621 / 4,718	859 / 1,094	17,197 / 24,858	12,510 12 6
1774	249 { summer 115 / winter 134	4,913 / 6,436	1,150 / 1,584	25,134 / 31,459	17,025 5 0
1775	281 { summer 101 / winter 180	4,277 / 8,795	1,003 / 2,028	13,396 / 40,070	19,609 15 0
1776	294 { summer 68 / winter 226	2,859 / 11,334	670 / 2,695	7,748 / 44,115	21,290 7 6

After this year the fiſhery again declined as long as the war continued.

The Eaſt-India company obtained by treaty a confirmation of the property of the iſland of Salſette, which their forces had taken poſſeſſion of in the year 1773. It is a fertile iſland, about 15 miles in length and nearly as much in breadth, ſeparated by a very narrow channel from the iſland on which Bombay ſtands: and, as that ſettlement had no territory beyond the limits of its own ſmall iſland, and conſequently de-

pended entirely on other places for its ſubſiſtence, it was a very convenient acquiſition.

This year Captain Forreſt, an enterpriſing navigator in the ſervice of the Eaſt-India company, who had formerly explored the coaſts of New Guinea and many others of the remote Oriental iſlands, eſtabliſhed a plantation of nutmeg trees in Bunwoot, a ſmall iſland near the capital of Magindano, which the king of that great iſland beſtowed upon the company. The plants were brought by him from Manaſwary, an iſland near the coaſt of New Guinea, and the chief difference between the fruit and the nutmegs monopolized by the Dutch, is that it is of a longer ſhape.

September 22d—The caiſſe d'eſcompte (office, or bank of diſcount) was this year eſtabliſhed at Paris by a ſociety of bankers and others, who ſubſcribed a capital of twelve millions of livres. They propoſed to accommodate the public by diſcounting bills at four per cent per annum, to deal in gold and ſilver bullion, to receive depoſits of money from ſuch as choſe to lodge it with them, and to enter into no other branches of buſineſs. The whole of the regulations for conducting their affairs were thought to be very wiſely planned; and the inſtitution was ſuppoſed by the French to be a conſiderable improvement upon the bank of England. It was ſoon found, however, that the profits of diſcount at four per cent, when the charges of management and ſometimes loſſes, were deducted, were by no means adequate to the amount of the capital employed in this bank, and therefor they were empowered to iſſue notes, the ſum total of which was reſtricted to the amount of their capital; and the partners, being moſtly dealers in money, found no difficulty in giving extenſive currency and credit to their notes, which were readily accepted by the public, as they could at any time be converted into caſh.

The Britiſh and French imports at Hamburgh and Bremen in the courſe of this year were in value as follows.

	Hamburgh.	Bremen.
from Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Weſt Indies,	£974,442: 5:0	£178,476: 3:0
from France, - - -	1,099,559: 12:0	307,580: 15:0

The Britiſh cargoes carried to Hamburgh employed 226 veſſels, whereof 164 were Britiſh. The French cargoes to the ſame port loaded 192 veſſels, whereof only 10 were French, and 20 were Britiſh.

The French trade, notwithſtanding the great inferiority of ſhipping, continued to have the aſcendancy in theſe two cities, the later of which belongs in ſovereignty to the king of Great Britain. But with reſpect to Hamburgh, the freights, if they are not included in this valuation, muſt turn the ſcale greatly in favour of Britain.

The empreſs of Ruſſia, poſſeſſing the ſpirit, as well as the dominions, of Peter the Great, was indefatigable in her efforts to improve and po-

liſh the manners of her ſubjects, and to elevate her dominions to that rank among the commercial and maritime powers of Europe, which their vaſt extent and reſources ſeem to entitle them to. She projected the union of the inland Caſpian ſea, not only with the Baltic and the Black ſea, but alſo with the Northern ocean, by improving the navigation of the vaſt rivers of her empire, and uniting them by canals, to be executed upon a grand ſcale; and by the ſame means ſhe propoſed to extend her inland navigation from Peterſburg to the confines of China, an extent of about 4,500 miles, with a portage of only 60 miles. Fully ſenſible that human induſtry, and not merely a vaſt extent of territory, conſtitutes the power and riches of a ſtate, ſhe uſed every means to invite foreigners to ſettle the boundleſs uncultivated, but fertile, tracts of her empire, by religious toleration and other encouragements, in conſequence of which the banks of the Wolga were now peopled by above 6,000 adventitious families. In order to render the communication with China as convenient as poſſible to the caravans, every encouragement and aſſiſtance were given to cultivate the deſert lands, and erect villages along the tract of their long and tedious journey. The greateſt encouragement was alſo given to ſettle the ports of the new-acquired territory on the coaſt of the Black ſea, and to proſecute the navigation of it and the Mediterranean, to which a free paſſage through the Dardanelles was ſtipulated in the treaty of peace with Turkey. And, after the concluſion of a moſt bloody and rancorous war with that empire, a great Ruſſian mercantile houſe was actually eſtabliſhed at Conſtantinople itſelf under the immediate patronage of the empreſs. By theſe vigorous meaſures has the commerce of Ruſſia advanced to conſiderable magnitude; and at this time the exports of that empire were double the amount that they were twenty years before. Part of the increaſe however was owing to the revolution in America, whereby Great Britain was obliged to return to the northern countries of Europe for the ſupply of naval ſtores, which had for many years been obtained from the American colonies: and part, alſo occaſioned by the ſame event, was owing to the increaſed demand and greatly advanced price of tobacco in Europe, whereof great quantities grow in Ruſſia, which now began to export it to Lubeck and Holland, whence a good deal of it was reſhipped for France.

But the unfavourable nature and ſituation of the very ſmall portions of navigable ſea aſſigned to that vaſt empire by the diſtribution of nature, and the enſlaved condition of the people, ſeem to oppoſe barriers, perhaps inſurmountable, (or at leaſt requiring the labour and prudent attention of ages) againſt the progreſs of Ruſſia towards a ſtate of aggrandizement, in any degree proportionable to its extent, or even to its population.

Mr. Spalding, a citizen of Edinburgh, received a handſome premium from the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and com-

merce, for his great improvements on the diving-bell, whereby the divers can lower themſelves down without fear of being overturned by rocks or other impediments at the bottom, and can re-aſcend to the ſurface at pleaſure: and they can alſo, when at the bottom, move to a conſiderable diſtance from the ſpot on which they lighted *.

A much more uſeful and important diſcovery was this year made public in France by Mr. de Broſſes, preſident of the parliament of Dijon. His granaries being infeſted by weevils, he threw ſome lobſters among the wheat, the ſmell of which, whether alive or dead (and the more putrid, the better) is ſo noxious to thoſe inſects, that they immediately come out of the corn, and leave the granary. The ſimplicity of this remedy puts it in the power of every farmer and dealer in corn to preſerve from the depredations of devouring vermin a property, ſo exceedingly valuable to the owner and to the community, ſo very important in commerce, and ſo eſſentially neceſſary to the ſubſiſtence of mankind.

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,784	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	604,071 tuns;
and of Scotland	1,640	- - -	91,502
Total	9,424		695,573

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward	8,135	765,220	1,569	191,999	9,704	957,219
Outward	9,946	872,108	643	74,323	10,589	946,431

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was

from the cuſtom-houſe in London	£2,460,402	11	2
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh	20,000	0	0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain	£2,480,402	11	2

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

107,145 pounds of gold, value	£5,006,350	2	6
and 101 pounds 9 ounces of ſilver,	315	8	6
	£5,006,665	11	0

* The ingenious author of theſe improvements fell a victim to his own art on the coaſt of Ireland in May 1783.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1775 to Chriſtmas 1776 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£99,674 13 11		£470,779 1 1	
Canaries	4,428 17 10		37,969 1 2	
Denmark and Norway	103,029 11 5	£17,414 11 8	232,970 2 3	£20,239 18 3
East Country	240,658 19 4		60,293 0 5	
East India	1,468,077 13 7		726,398 8 5	
Flanders	107,633 4 10		1,038,483 1 0	
France	56,865 2 8	2,904 19 6	178,319 0 10	233,580 12 0
Germany	666,080 2 2	11,023 13 11	1,460,776 0 9	88,179 12 4
Greenland	41,058 9 2	7,278 1 0	24 12 3	
Holland	381,098 7 3	101,709 0 3	1,427,396 15 9	179,002 18 11
Ireland	1,516,532 1 10	136,978 13 0	2,178,227 17 3	279,890 15 2
Mann	6,473 18 4	96 6 6	11,156 8 11	538 16 5
Italy	910,354 6 6	4,551 4 4	873,448 1 0	1,352 0 0
Madeira	2,872 14 5	46 14 6	24,801 16 0	795 18 6
Minorca			147 15 0	
Poland		7,201 9 8		773 10 9
Portugal	372,439 19 4	21,760 12 2	530,784 13 1	1,507 4 1
Prussia		22,152 0 1		1,392 2 6
Ruſſia	1,077,355 0 11	166,975 7 2	249,381 14 8	2,492 8 8
Spain	561,071 11 9	12,747 12 9	1,191,477 19 3	18,426 9 4
Gibraltar		95 15 7		747 8 6
Straits	2,876 5 6		24,337 18 6	
Sweden	248,836 6 9	24,860 19 9	113,131 10 4	1,957 7 1
Turkey	249,738 3 3		215,756 4 1	
Venice	46,293 5 1		64,824 5 11	
Guernſey, &c.	33,040 4 7	625 3 7	58,573 6 9	1,803 10 10
America in general		95,596 1 2		71,559 15 1
Hudſon's bay	6,634 12 3		5,778 2 5	
Newfoundland	50,442 3 1		130,280 4 1	
Cape Breton			164 11 0	
Quebec	54,925 13 4		446,928 2 11	
Nova Scotia	6,529 15 2		245,036 10 10	
New England	762 13 0		55,050 9 7	
New York	2,318 15 5			
Pennſylvania	1,421 4 2		365 0 0	
Maryland and Virginia	73,226 3 2			
Carolina	13,668 1 5			
Georgia	12,569 13 4			
Florida	30,628 15 4		174,175 3 1	
West Indies in general		112,661 14 0		121,584 7 6
Antigua	297,535 14 9		169,436 10 9	
Barbados	191,531 19 1		142,134 11 6	
Bermuda	238 11 4		11,413 3 11	
Dominica	257,775 15 3		64,697 18 6	
Grenada	370,884 9 0		163,366 11 6	
Jamaica	1,359,033 2 1		632,315 5 9	
Montſerrat	64,521 19 5		22,938 12 8	
Nevis	93,231 11 5		23,836 14 5	
New Providence	2,950 15 2		5,422 16 8	
St. Croix	16,869 1 3		406 3 0	
St. Euſtathius	709 13 0		1,656 9 2	
St. Chriſtophers	293,482 0 7		160,635 2 10	
St. Thomas	1,675 17 8		2,388 8 7	
St. Vincents	135,919 14 2		45,993 11 6	
Tobago	83,060 19 0		21,913 13 7	
Tortola	44,451 10 5		29,841 18 5	
Bay of Honduras	30,007 9 0		2,215 8 10	
Muſquito ſhore	2,468 16 0		12,797 5 5	
Falkland's iſlands	783 5 0		321 16 6	
Imp. and exp. of England	11,696,754 14 6		13,729,731 7 0	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	746,680 2 7	746,680 2 7	1,025,972 10 11	1,025,972 10 11
Total, Great Britain	12,443,434 17 1		14,755,703 17 11	

1777, January 3d—The Eaſt India company having now paid up the whole of the money advanced to them by government in the year 1773, together with the intereſt on it, they were conſequently at liberty, agreeable to the act of parliament, [13 *Geo. III, c.* 64] to raiſe their dividend from *ſix* to *ſeven* per cent: and they accordingly declared their half-yearly dividend to be *three and a half* per cent.

The French private merchants in Bengal had carried on their trade, after the ſuſpenſion of their company's excluſive privilege, on paying the ſame duties which had formerly been paid by the company. But in April 1776 the governor-general and council of Bengal directed their revenue officers to charge them, as individuals, with *four* per cent on the amount of their invoices, on all goods except foreign ſalt, on which all perſons, whether companies or individuals were to pay 10 rupees for every 100 maunds.

Mr. Chevalier, a principal French merchant, remonſtrated againſt this regulation, and urged that the duties of *two and a half* per cent had been paid with great exactneſs by the French merchants at Chandenagore according to immemorial uſage and the privileges of their nation. The other French merchants, and alſo the Dutch and Daniſh private traders, joining in the application, the governor-general and council determined, as it was an object of no great conſequence, to let the goods of French private merchants paſs on a duty of two and a half per cent, ſtill reſerving their right to four per cent, when they ſhould think proper to claim it (24th March).

February 21st—Sir Joſeph Yorke, the Britiſh ambaſſador to Holland, had preſented ſeveral memorials to the States-general, complaining of the favour and countenance ſhown by the Dutch to the Americans in the Weſt-Indies: and he now again preſented one, complaining in the ſtrongeſt terms of the governor of St. Euſtathius, a Dutch iſland in the Weſt-Indies, who from his fort had returned the ſalute of an American ſhip, and inſiſting on a formal diſavowal of ſuch proceedings, and the recall of the governor. In about five weeks thereafter the Dutch ambaſſador at London gave in an anſwer, wherein the States-general expreſsly diſavowed the conduct of their governor, whom they had ordered home to lay an account of his conduct before them. They alſo declared, that they had ſent repeated orders to all their governors in the Weſt-Indies, enjoining a ſtrict obſervance of their placards againſt furniſhing military ſtores to the Americans. The Dutch traders in the Weſt-Indies continued, notwithſtanding, to pay no attention to any orders, which they thought contrary to their own intereſt. Neither is it probable, that their government ever intended, that they ſhould be ſtrictly obſerved.

Mr. Hartley, having in April 1773 obtained the king's patent for fourteen years for his invention of a method of ſecuring buildings

and ſhips from fire, and having repreſented that he could not in that period be reimburſed the charges he muſt neceſſarily be at, parliament indulged him with a prolongation of it for thirty-one years from the date of paſſing the act; exempting, however, from his excluſive privilege the king's dock-yards, rope-houſes, &c. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 6.] (3d March.)

March 27th—A permanent committee of the manufacturers of the weſt riding of Yorkſhire, Lancaſhire, and Cheſhire, was appointed to ſit at Halifax, to prevent frauds in combing wool, reeling yarn, &c. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 11.]

The act to prevent frauds in the meaſurement of coals was continued to the 1st of June 1798, and thence, as uſual, to the end of the next ſeſſion of parliament. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 13.]

An order of the houſe of commons enables me to lay before the reader

An

An account of the value, as rated in the inspector's books, of all the woollen goods of all sorts, viz. bays, cloths, cottons (or coatings), flannels, serges, says, stuffs, stuffs mixed, carpets, and worsted stockings, &c. exported from England to all countries during the following years.

	1772	1773	1774	1775	1776
Africa	£ 167,571 10 3	223,362 8 2	178,543 11 11	177,132 16 11	68,507 13 9
Canaries	18,395 7 8	24,869 5 0	29,151 6 3	23,415 4 2	25,602 0 0
Denmark, &c.	29,416 0 0	16,353 0 7	22,323 16 3	42,380 0 7	44,277 3 10
East country	40,855 12 2	24,308 5 9	29,384 4 4	23,162 17 4	24,325 1 11
East-India	232,643 19 0	182,422 4 8	148,021 17 6	164,472 13 8	99,172 19 8
Flanders	203,975 7 8	212,828 14 6	195,699 13 4	258,022 7 7	252,075 2 7
France	2,990 7 6	2,660 12 2	1,306 6 6	16,480 17 10	813 10 0
Germany	253,847 16 11	249,696 17 11	277,507 10 7	304,560 16 10	312,759 17 1
Holland	411,140 3 5	361,424 5 4	381,912 11 5	397,443 12 2	388,917 19 5
Ireland	169,044 17 7	209,167 15 6	253,806 10 10	318,944 0 11	276,053 18 8
Mann		1,800 15 0	3,090 0 0	2,807 18 0	2,402 10 0
Italy	454,992 1 3	367,698 5 5	395,182 2 3	519,007 16 0	483,905 5 1
Madeira	3,726 17 6	4,449 15 0	10,169 9 4	5,809 9 7	2,716 5 0
Portugal	500,298 13 11	408,270 17 6	428,811 12 11	448,078 13 2	350,104 17 10
Russia	53,011 1 1	71,027 15 11	59,817 13 1	48,576 4 8	58,852 7 2
Spain	552,575 7 6	579,373 2 5	655,318 14 3	867,648 8 0	859,119 7 7
Straits	110,811 1 0	50,799 9 4	134,694 1 8	28,111 6 6	21,668 6 9
Sweden	809 3 0	75 1 0	612 9 6	847 13 6	2,723 8 10
Turkey	59,191 10 0	62,732 15 0	89,566 17 6	131,857 13 6	115,306 10 6
Venice	13,375 10 0	15,309 17 0	13,132 12 0	12,687 6 0	14,821 0 0
Guernsey, &c.	6,801 6 6	3,843 1 2	7,280 15 0	8,054 10 6	11,749 11 2
Hudson's bay	1,643 3 2	1,928 12 10	1,288 7 8	1,697 10 8	1,658 15 8
Newfoundland	9,751 5 3	4,538 3 5	5,066 18 4	5,231 12 5	6,133 16 11
Cape Breton			43 12 6		6 9 0
Quebec	64,045 1 3	106,237 18 1	100,887 15 4	171,782 1 6	200 569 12 4
Nova Scotia	15,428 11 7	4,414 12 10	13,031 5 5	9,601 19 3	53,727 12 2
New England	284,553 9 10	147,717 15 4	168,815 16 9	8,382 9 3	15,657 2 5
New York	128,879 0 10	76,498 5 3	129,547 5 8	345 0 0	
Pennsylvania	216,055 2 2	135,119 2 8	217,205 13 4	210 10 3	
Maryland and Virginia	185,437 5 3	99,308 14 6	133,912 10 1	5 18 0	
Carolina	84,226 11 10	73,403 18 9	91,361 1 2	1,106 2 6	
Georgia	26,492 0 3	16,982 15 3	14,627 3 9	39,719 11 3	
Florida	17,357 5 0	20,778 2 0	23,122 11 7	22,518 3 4	42,366 14 0
Antigua	11,219 16 5	8,355 0 11	10,879 11 11	14,328 13 10	19,931 2 6
Barbados	11,968 1 1	18,417 9 5	11,737 5 6	15,208 14 2	7,955 4 1
Bermuda	1,999 0 9	1,189 15 1	972 14 5	2,255 14 0	2,239 3 5
Dominica	3,067 3 2	1,277 7 8	9,210 10 4	3,521 9 0	1,976 1 4
Grenada	10,130 12 3	3,037 12 5	2,223 4 3	5,037 13 1	5,384 14 2
Jamaica	63,841 16 5	68,219 18 2	66,128 17 6	89,403 8 6	68,925 15 6
Montserrat	1,512 3 0	505 9 8	483 8 4	2,207 11 4	1,947 5 0
Nevis	1,050 19 4	1,018 0 0	1,471 16 4	1,728 16 1	2,422 16 0
St. Christophers	7,488 11 1	4,164 0 0	7,516 1 8	7,274 12 3	12,924 9 1
St. Vincents	1,271 2 6	4,302 0 5	3,460 9 10	8,167 13 2	2,440 18 3
Tobago	1,990 4 0	226 14 0	2,218 16 2	1,664 18 3	1,111 12 0
Tortola	1,701 7 3	2,878 12 8	625 17 5	1,438 5 9	2,711 1 4
New Providence	2 15 0	25 0 0	138 14 0	6,809 13 3	
St. Thomas				162 15 0	1,085 0 0
Bay of Honduras	0 16 10	0 17 9	4 8 0	62 10 0	
Musquito shore	196 5 0	2,909 14 3	2,267 10 0	209 0 0	893 18 4
Falkland's islands				588 6 8	
Totals	4,436,783 4 5	3,875,920 17 8	4,333,583 4 2	4,220,173 0 2	3,868,053 19 6

Such was the value, according to the cuſtom-houſe computation (and it was conſiderably more in reality) of what could be ſpared from the productions of this moſt important manufacture, beſides ſupplying the home conſumption of all England and Wales, and nearly the whole home conſumption, and moſt of the exportation, of Scotland, which later was much more conſiderable before the American revolution, than it has been ſince. This capital branch of manufacture is ſaid to give employment to a million and a half of people in various parts of England *.

April 24th—The houſe of commons having required the lords of trade to conſider the ſtate of the African trade, and the application of the money allowed by parliament for the ſupport and protection of it, they made up a report, of which the following is nearly the ſubſtance.

Their lordſhips find, that the proceedings of the African committee previous to the year 1758 have been examined, and approved of.

It appears, that ſince that period the important trade for ſlaves, ivory, and gold, in exchange for Britiſh manufactures and India piece goods, has altered greatly for the worſe. The price of Gold-coaſt ſlaves (the moſt valuable ſpecies of ſlaves) has increaſed from £13 to £27 ſterling †, which is intolerably burthenſome on the Weſt-India planters: ivory has become ſcarce, and conſequently advanced in price; and gold, inſtead of being imported in large quantities, as formerly, in exchange for Britiſh manufactures, muſt now be carried out by the free merchants, or purchaſed on the coaſt at an exorbitant rate, as no ſlaves can now be procured without it ‡.

It appears, that the eſtabliſhments of governors and other officers at the ſeveral poſts on the coaſt of Africa, which are ſupported at the national expenſe, with a view to enable every Britiſh ſubject to trade on the coaſt in a free and open manner, has been perverted to a monopoly, utterly ſubverſive of the intentions of parliament, and ruinous to the

* The large book, from which I have compreſſed and digeſted this account, ſhows, that now, as well as formerly, a much greater value of woollen manufactures was ſhipped from London than from all the outports of England. In the year 1775, when the exceſs of London was much leſs than in ſome other years, the value of woollens ſhipped from London was £2,247,570 : 3 : 0, and from the outports £1,972,602 : 17 : 2.

It may be agreeable to ſee the value of the exports of the ſame ſpecies of goods from England a century earlier.

In 1698	from London £2,102,634,	and from the outports £1,017,981	Total £3,120,615
1700	2,021,145	968,018	2,989,163
1701	2,045,951	1,082,414	3,128,365

† Some of the witneſſes ſtated the price to have been only £10 for male ſlaves in the year 1748, which in the year 1763 had advanced to £13. A chronological ſtatement of the prices of that article of trade will be found under the year 1788.

‡ It was given in evidence by the ſlaving captains, that the black ſlave merchants inſiſted on having two ounces of gold, value £8 (in which of the currencies?) in the price of every ſlave. And, the gold being all collected by the reſident governors and other officers in their petty dealings with the negroes, the captains are obliged to purchaſe it from them at any price they pleaſe to put upon it.

free trade, by the governors of the forts, in conjunction with ſome people at home, one, or more, of whom have at the ſame time been of the very committee, which is authorized and ſupported by parliament for the expreſs purpoſe of correcting and reſtraining abuſes in the trade.

The governors carry on a continual petty retail trade with the negroes in ſpiritous liquors and tobacco, whereby they collect almoſt all the gold on the coaſt. Part of that gold they pay to the commanders of the Dutch forts for Brazil tobacco, an article nearly as indiſpenſible as gold in the purchaſe of ſlaves.

The governors, availing themſelves of their reſidence on the coaſt, and of the uſe of the ſtores, ſlaves, and veſſels, belonging to the public, committed to their charge, have been enabled to engroſs more than one half of the whole Britiſh trade on the coaſt*; and, if they are not ſpeedily put under proper reſtrictions, they will ſoon effectually exclude every Britiſh free merchant from any ſhare in it, except in a dependence upon them†.

By the pre-emption of the beſt ſlaves, and by purchaſing ſlaves from the Dutch governors, they are enabled to diſpatch their ſhips with full cargoes, while others, attempting a free and independent trade, are obliged to lie a long time on the coaſt at a vaſt expenſe, before they can complete their cargoes; and are generally under the neceſſity of having recourſe to the governors at laſt, and paying them an exorbitant price for ſuch ſlaves as they do not think good enough to be ſhipped on their own account‡.

Ships, with cargoes ſuited to the African trade, are conſigned to the governors by their partners here. Theſe ſhips carry out, not only Britiſh goods, but alſo great quantities of Dutch manufactures, to the great prejudice of our own §. The inferior kind of rum, diſtilled in New-England, has been imported to the coaſt in ſuch abundance ‖, that in the year 1775 no leſs than thirteen ſhips from Boſton and Rhode-iſland carried off from the Gold-coaſt 2288 ſlaves, bought ſolely with that article, and chiefly from the governors; and another ſhip from

* It was ſtated by the ſlaving captains, that the governors received their goods free of freight, and ſtored them in warehouſes built and kept up at the national expenſe, as they alſo lodged their ſlaves in the ſlave-holes, of which there is one in every fort.

† It was aſſerted in evidence, that the governors are expreſsly prohibited by their inſtructions from having any concern in trade. But it may be aſked on the other hand, what could induce them to accept ſuch offices, if their emoluments were to be confined to their ſalaries.

‡ The commanders of the ſlaving ſhips declared, that the more money government beſtowed for ſupporting the freedom of the trade, the more the governors were enabled to monopolize it, by bribing the black chiefs and traders at the national expenſe to turn the whole of the trade to their private advantage, whereby, they ſuppoſed, they might ſoon be enabled to engroſs the whole of it.

§ General O'Hara, governor of Senegambia, in the year 1766 eſtimated the damage done to the manufacturing intereſt of Great Britain by the ſale of foreign manufactures at the Britiſh ſettlements in Africa to be conſiderably above £200,000 ſterling annually.

‖ Lord Sheffield ſtates the quantity of rum carried from North America to Africa, on the average of the years 1768, 1769, 1770, to be 270,147 gallons.

Rhode-iſland ſold her whole cargo of rum to the governors for gold and bills of exchange. The governors, having ſuch a command of the ſlave trade, have availed themſelves of the ſuperior character of the Gold-coaſt ſlaves by buying up others of inferior quality, and paſſing them upon unexperienced purchaſers as Gold-coaſt ſlaves.

By the returns of the ſlaves ſhipped off from the coaſt, which are tranſmitted by the governors to the African committee, the annual exportation of Gold-coaſt ſlaves appears to have been almoſt doubled in the laſt ſix years: but, notwithſtanding the apparent authenticity of thoſe returns, the lords of trade are of opinion, that the merchants of London, Briſtol, and Liverpool, are warranted in aſſerting, that the trade for real Gold-coaſt ſlaves is diminiſhed, the trade for ivory much leſſened, and the trade for gold totally loſt; that the Britiſh manufactures have fallen greatly in value on the coaſt, while every article of African produce has riſen prodigiouſly *.

Though parliament has actually made grants for the ſupport of the ſeveral forts on the coaſt of Africa, amounting, from the year 1750 to 1776, both incluſive, to the ſum of £343,400, excluſive of £112,142 : 3 : 3 paid as a compenſation to the Royal African company for the ſurrender of their charter, forts, and effects; yet all the forts, except Annamaboe and Dixcove, are in a ruinous condition, and their ordinance totally unſerviceable. Nor do the forts, if really fortified, afford any protection to the free merchant: but, being merely repoſitories, or ſtore-houſes, for private trade, they operate to the extreme prejudice and diſcouragement of the general trade.

It appears, that the public money is every year inveſted by the committee in goods ſuitable to the African market, which are given to the committee's governors and other ſervants in payment of their ſalaries and other claims upon the public, and applied by them to the purpoſes of their private trade. Theſe payments being often advanced by the governors out of their private ſtores before the arrival of the ſtore ſhips, they take the opportunity of putting off goods of a very inferior quality, for which they charge the price of the beſt.

No leſs than three different currencies had been eſtabliſhed on the coaſt, and uſed in the books kept at the forts, to the utter ſubverſion of all perſpicuity in the accounts. The committee, ſenſible of ſo groſs an impropriety, (to call it no worſe) had ordered, that all accounts ſhould be kept in one currency, called *Company's pay*, which is ſtated to be at a permanent exchange of 50 per cent: but, notwithſtanding that order, it was diſcovered by Mr. Camplin, the ſecretary of the African committee, that the governors ſtill found means, by a ſtroke of management in the

* Is not ſuch the natural progreſs of all trades between civilized and uncivilized nations? If the fur trade on the north-weſt coaſt of America ſhall continue to be proſecuted, will a ſkin, which is worth 100 dollars in China, continue to be purchaſed for a bit of iron hoop?

exchange, to convey into their own pockets one fifth part of the whole of the public money. By theſe and other means the governors have made up accounts, whereby the committee, or rather the public, appears to be indebted to them £15,962 : 3 : 5 ſterling, over and above the value of the public goods in the ſtores, at the end of the year 1775; and it is preſumed, that the debt is greatly increaſed during the year 1776.

Upon the whole of the inquiry it appears, that the number of ſlaves exported from Africa has greatly decreaſed, and the price greatly increaſed *; that the importation of gold, which was formerly at the rate of 100,000 ounces annually, procured in exchange for Britiſh goods upon very profitable terms, is now annihilated; and that, while the trade is thus going to ruin, the expenſe of ſupporting it is increaſed to an enormous degree.

A reply to this report was preſented at the board of trade in July 1779, wherein the governors and other ſervants of the African committee, ſtationed on the coaſt, endeavoured to repell the charges made againſt them.

April 30th—The corporation of London, finding their operations in improving the navigation of the River Thames above London cramped by the interference of private proprietors of tolls, &c. applied to parliament, and obtained authority to purchaſe all the private tolls, and to take a moderate ſimplified toll inſtead of them, after the 1st of May, from every barge in proportion to the tunnage and diſtance. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 18.]

The improvement of the ſtreets and paſſages, communicating with the naval ſtreet of Wapping, which was now regulated by parliament, may, not improperly, be mentioned, as a proof of increaſing and flouriſhing commerce. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 22.]

May 16th—In order to prevent the frauds committed in the ſale of annuities for life by means of the ſecrecy wherewith they uſed to be tranſacted, a memorial of all the circumſtances of every ſuch annuity was directed to be regiſtered in the court of chancery. All annuities ſold by minors are by this act, with great propriety, declared null and void †. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

To encourage the exportation of tea to Ireland, the whole duty of the cuſtom was allowed to be drawn back. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

In order to prevent frauds in the revenue of exciſe with reſpect to tea, all perſons making counterfeit tea of leaves of ſloe, liquoriſh, aſh, elder, &c. or of tea that has been uſed, are ſubjected to a fine of five pounds

* Is not the increaſe of price a natural conſequence of the decreaſe of quantity? Perhaps Africa begins to be exhauſted of its live ſtock.

† This remedial act, framed with the wiſeſt and moſt benevolent intentions, has been perverted by miſtakes and violent miſconſtructions ſo as to be made to hold out encouragement and protection to many infamous frauds.

for every pound weight of ſuch leaves ſold by them, or found in their poſſeſſion. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

In conſequence of the advantage reſulting to the public from ſuppreſſing the circulation of notes for leſs than twenty ſhillings, parliament now determined to extend the reſtriction to all notes drawn in England for any ſum under five pounds; and all ſuch were directed after the 1st of January 1778 to be made payable at twenty-one days after date, to expreſs the name and reſidence of the receiver, and to be transferable only by an indorſement, which ſhould alſo contain the reſidence, as well as the name, of the indorſee: and the original drawing, and every indorſement, were required to be further authenticated by the ſubſcriptions of witneſſes. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 30.]

The dyers of Middleſex, Eſſex, Surrey, and Kent, were relieved from the hardſhip impoſed on them by an act of Queen Elizabeth, which prohibited them from employing as journeymen any perſons, who had not ſerved an apprenticeſhip of ſeven years; and they were thenceforth permitted to employ ſuch journeymen as they thought proper. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 33.] This was a conſiderable advance towards the emancipation of handicraft trades from the ſhackles of a miſtaken feudal policy.

The act for prohibiting the importation of foreign ſilks and velvets, and for preventing unlawful combinations of workmen employed in the ſilk manufacture, was continued to the 14th of June 1782. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 35.]

Some new regulations were made reſpecting the duties payable on glaſs, and the materials for making it. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 39.]

June—The commanders of ſhips in the Eaſt-India company's ſervice allowing goods to be received onboard their ſhips, or delivered out of them, at ſea, were ſubjected to a forfeiture of triple the value of the goods ſo taken onboard or delivered.—All commanders of Britiſh or Iriſh veſſels arriving at any port in the Baltic, where a Britiſh conſul reſides, are directed to deliver to him manifeſts ſpecifying the particulars of their cargoes. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 41.]

The ſizes of bricks and tiles were regulated by law; and all combinations to advance their prices, or to engroſs them, were ſtrictly prohibited. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 42.]

Some new regulations were made reſpecting the duties payable on the importation of currants and raiſins.—And tobacco-pipe clay was permitted to be exported to the ſugar colonies for the purpoſe of cleanſing ſugar, or making what is called clayed ſugar. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 43.]

The ſeveral acts—for encouraging the culture of indigo in the Britiſh colonies—for regiſtering the prices, and the imports and exports of corn—for regulating the duty on tanners' bark in proportion to the prices—for allowing the exportation of timber, the produce of Dominica, to any other Britiſh colony—and for a bounty on the exporta-

tion of Britiſh-made cordage, were all continued for different limited times. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 44.]

Five millions of money were raiſed this year by a loan at *four per cent*, with an annuity of ten ſhillings for ten years: and half a million more by a lottery, the ſubſcriber of every £100 of the loan being entitled to one lottery ticket at £10. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 46.] By theſe terms the permanent intereſt on the real money borrowed is only *four per cent:* and, as there was no creation of fictitious capital, which makes a real high intereſt appear a low one, this may be conſidered as a good bargain made by the miniſter for the public *.

The commiſſioners of the longitude were empowered to beſtow £5,000 in a reward, or rewards, to any perſons diſcovering improvements reſpecting the longitude, or in any branch of navigation. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 48.]

Auctioneers within the bills of mortality were ſubjected to an annual payment of twenty ſhillings, and other auctioneers, of five ſhillings, for licence to carry on their buſineſs, after the 29th of September 1777: and at the ſame time a duty was laid on all property ſold by auction. But from this duty were exempted, all property ſold by order of court; the ſales of the Eaſt-India and Hudſon's-bay companies; ſales by order of the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms, exciſe, ordinance, navy, and the victualling office; goods diſtrained for rent; the effects of bankrupts; the produce of the Britiſh colonies ſold within one year after their importation; veſſels and cargoes taken as prizes; wrecked goods; and ſales for the benefit of creditors.——By the ſame act a great variety of new ſtamp-duties were impoſed upon conveyances of property, policies of inſurance, &c. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 50.]

Stricter regulations were enacted for ſecuring the duties payable on the manufacture of ſoap, and the importation of rum. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 52.]

The hatmakers were relieved from the hardſhips of an act of Elizabeth and another of James I, whereby they were prohibited from employing any journeymen, who had not ſerved ſeven years as apprentices, or any foreigners, and are directed to employ as many journeymen as apprentices, if they offer themſelves. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 55.] Another ſtep towards breaking the ſhackles of feudal tyranny.

Penalties were enacted for the embezzlement of materials intruſted to work-people in the manufactures of hats, wool, linen, ſilk, &c. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 56.]

The law aſcertaining the property of engravings to their original authors was corroborated. [17 *Geo. III, c.* 57.]

* The high intereſt upon the real ſum borrowed is not the only pernicious conſequence of creating a fictitious augmentation of the capital. The nominal hundreds may become real hundreds; and the holders of ſome branches of the funds, in caſe of paying off the debt, may demand, and actually receive above £200 for £100 originally lent to the public.

Several acts were alſo paſſed, as uſual, for the improvement of various parts of London, for building bridges, making canals, draining fens, and dividing commons.

The company who eſtabliſhed the great iron works at Carron in Stirling-ſhire in the year 1760, had now brought their manufacture to ſuch a degree of perfection, that their exportation was at this time an object of great national importance. Their great guns, which were caſt ſolid, and bored by a drill worked by the whole force of the River Carron, were exported to Ruſſia, Denmark, Spain, &c.: and the quantities were ſo conſiderable, that the government was unwilling to let them be carried in ordinary ſhips, leſt they ſhould fall into the hands of the American cruiſers. The company thereupon fitted out a ſtout ſhip of their own, properly armed and manned, for the purpoſe of carrying to Spain 300 iron guns from three to twenty-four pounders. This is given as a ſpecimen of the cargoes ſhipped by that great manufacturing company, who beſides ſupplying the demand in Britain, about this time furniſhed many other cargoes of great guns to Spain, Ruſſia, and other foreign powers. The war alſo greatly increaſed the demand for their iron ballaſt, which was univerſally uſed in the navy, and alſo in many merchant ſhips. Their ſtoves, which are now in every apartment all over the kingdom, were at this time beginning to come into uſe.

In the year 1755 the corporation of Liverpool employed Meſſieurs Taylor and Eyes to ſurvey the country, with a view to conſider of a plan for joining the River Trent on the eaſt ſide of the country with the Merſea on the weſt ſide, whereby the navigable communication with Hull, which by ſea is a circuit of a thouſand miles, and in time of war with France is peculiarly expoſed to the enemy's cruiſers, might be performed with eaſe and ſafety in a line of leſs than two hundred miles. In the year 1758 the marquis of Stafford and Lord Anſon promoted another ſurvey for the ſame purpoſe, which was executed by Mr. Brindley, the ſame heaven-taught engineer, who ſhowed the world the wonders of the duke of Bridgewater's canal. In 1766 this important canal was begun by Mr. Brindley; and it was finiſhed, after his death, by his brother-in-law, Mr. Henſhall, in May 1777, to the great joy of the whole country. It has obtained the name of the Grand trunk navigation, becauſe it goes under ground at five places, the moſt remarkable of which is Harecaſtle hill, where it extends 2,880 yards (above one mile and five furlongs) under the mountain, the ſurface of which is more than 200 feet above it; a work projected and accompliſhed by the happy boldneſs of Brindley's genius, after being ridiculed by other engineers as impracticable.

The main canal between the Trent and the Merſea was greatly improved by the junction of a branch, of 46 miles in length, extended to the Severn at Bewdley in Worceſter-ſhire, which connects the three great

commercial towns of Briſtol, Liverpool, and Hull, between which goods can be conveyed without any trouble of unloading and reſhipping. This work was alſo planned and executed by Mr. Brindley.

To this later canal was ſoon after added another of 26 miles: and thereafter ſo many other branches were connected with it, for extending the communication through a wide range of the country, that it would be tedious to recount them all.

May 27th—Meſſieurs Clark and Berkenhout applied to the lords of trade for a reward for an invention, whereby they can dye cotton in ſcarlet and crimſon colours, both in grain: and their lordſhips recommended their invention to the king, as worthy of a reward, in order that it might be made public for the benefit and extenſion of the manufactures of the kingdom.

Grenada, and ſome of the other iſlands in the Weſt-Indies had for ſeveral years been infeſted with the carnivorous ants (the *formicæ omnivoræ* of Linnæus) in ſuch inconceivable numbers, that the ſurface of the ground was often entirely covered with them, and carcaſes of large animals were reduced to ſkeletons with aſtoniſhing diſpatch. The ratoon canes *, lime trees, and, in general, all plants, which form a ſtool, or arched aſſemblage of roots, under ground, were totally deſtroyed by their burrowing under them: and ſome planters were actually obliged totally to abandon the cultivation of ſugar, and put their lands in cotton and other productions exempted from the ravages of that tremendous ſcourge. Many attempts were made to extirpate them; and Mr. Phillips of Grenada, who had diſcovered a powder to deſtroy them, applied to the lords of trade for a reward, who recommended it to the treaſury to give him a proper recompenſe, in conſequence of which, the houſe of commons voted him a reward of £3,600 for his invention in the year 1781 †. But as it was impracticable to cover the whole ſurface of an iſland with his powder, and thoſe ants, which were at a conſiderable depth under ground, were totally inacceſſible by it, it was ſoon found, that the operation of the remedy muſt ever be too limited to produce any important effect: and thoſe deſtructive little animals continued to diſtreſs and ruin the planters in ſeveral iſlands, and particularly in the French iſland of Martinique, till the year 1780 ‡, I ought

* Ratoon canes are thoſe which ſpring up from the roots of the canes, after they are cut. The ground, according to its ſtrength, will produce ratoons for more or fewer years, each ſucceeding year's ratoons, however, yielding leſs and leſs ſugar.

† That is, after the ants in Grenada, then a French iſland, were deſtroyed by the act of Providence in the hurricane of October 1780.

‡ According to Raynal, a reward of 666,000 livres had been offered in the year 1775 for the diſcovery of a remedy againſt the ants by the planters of Martinique, who, notwithſtanding a moſt dreadful hurricane in the year 1766, had been eleven years ſuffering from the deſtruction occaſioned by thoſe vermin. But before that time Mr. Deſvouves, a planter of that iſland, had diſcovered, that by burning the cane traſh in which the ants harboured, uſing plenty of manure, planting his canes anew every year, allowing room for the free circulation of air through them, and frequent weeding, he could obtain good crops of ſugar. [*Hiſt. phil. et polit. V.* vii, *p.* 70, *ed.* 1782.]

at the ſame time to obſerve, that thoſe ants, wherever they came, completely cleared the cane fields of rats, another dreadful kind of enemy to the ſugar planters, whoſe ravages, in canes devoured, or rendered unfit for making ſugar, are generally reckoned at not leſs than a third of the whole crop. Mr. Edwards has been informed, that they alſo remove the blaſt, which, after being long ſuppoſed a diſeaſe in the cane, has been found to conſiſt of millions of animalcula, inviſible to the naked eye, which extract the juices from the cane. [*Hiſt. of the Weſt-Indies*, V. ii, *p.* 214, *ed.* 1794.]

The American cruiſers now covered the ocean, and even infeſted the narrow ſeas of Great Britain and Ireland. Ships were taken in ſight of the land; the communication between England and Ireland was interrupted; and a convoy was actually appointed for the protection of the veſſels bringing linen from Ireland, which had never been neceſſary in any former war. The city of Dublin was terrified, and its harbour fortified: the coaſts of England, Scotland, and Ireland were alarmed, and ſome places were even inſulted and plundered. The citizens of Cheſter ſaw their fair poſtponed, becauſe no linens were arrived from Ireland. But another ſight, not leſs melancholy than new to the preſent race of Britiſh merchants, was exhibited on the River Thames, which was covered with foreign veſſels, and particularly French ones, loading for various parts of the world with Britiſh cargoes, the ſhippers of which were now afraid to truſt their property under the protection of the Britiſh flag.

The American cruiſers found ſhelter, and alſo, underhand, encouragement, in the ports of France. However, partly in order to ſave appearances, but more to protract the commencement of open hoſtilities, for which France was not yet fully prepared, an order was iſſued by the French government, in conſequence of a remonſtrance by Lord Stormont, the Britiſh ambaſſador, enjoining all the American privateers with their prizes to quit the ports of France. But the order was ſo univerſally eluded, that it was evidently never intended to be enforced.

The Britiſh and French imports at Hamburgh and Bremen in the courſe of this year were in value as follows.

	Hamburgh	Bremen
From Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Weſt-Indies,	£884,497 : 14 : 0	£97,076 : 18 : 0
from France - -	1,129,616 : 18 : 0	259,409 : 5 : 0

The cargoes carried from the Britiſh dominions to Hamburgh employed 167 veſſels, whereof 135 were Britiſh. The French trade to the ſame port employed 185 veſſels; but only 13 of them were French.

The total number of veſſels arrived this year at Hamburgh was 2,991, whereof 2,420 were ſmacks and other ſmall craft from Holland, Yuteland, Bremen, &c.

The following account of the gold coin circulating at the end of this year is given by Mr. Roſe ſecretary of the Treaſury *.

' In the year 1773, previous to the act 14 *Geo. III*, *c.* 70, the Bank ' of England was authorized to buy up by weight certain light gold at ' ſtandard price; and, by ſubſequent proclamations after the act, to ex- ' change other deficient coin, as was therein ſpecified: and it appears ' by the books of the Mint, that the gold ſo bought and exchanged ' was received there between the 25th of Auguſt 1773 and 10th of June ' 1777, amounting in ſtandard weight to 326,298 lb, 1 oz, 8 dwt, 4 gr, ' value - - - - £15,246,279

' In 1772 (the year preceding the com- ' mencement of the great recoinage) the ' Bank of England ſent to the Mint, ingots ' from foreign gold, in ſtandard weight ' 20,337 lb; and, as no part of the money ' into which it was coined, was iſſued from ' the Bank before the recoinage took ' place, its amount conſequently made a ' part of the new money produced within ' the time of the recoinage, being - 950,245

' The Bank alſo ſent to the Mint in- ' gots from foreign gold, within the time ' of the recoinage from the year 1773 to ' the end of 1777, in ſtandard weight, ' 62,033 lb: the coin produced therefrom ' made a further part of new money iſ- ' ſued within the ſame period, amounting ' to - - - - - - 2,898,491

' And there was alſo farther ſent by the ' Bank to the Mint, from 1775 to the end ' of 1777, ingots from guineas (which ig- ' norance or neglect had prevented from ' being brought in time to be exchanged ' under the proclamations) making in ' ſtandard weight 28,935 lb. This gold ' was bought by the Bank, and ſent to ' the Mint, in ordinary courſe of coinage, ' unattended with any other charge to the ' public, and made a part of new money,

* Other accounts were publiſhed about this time, which differ from that here given: but there can be no reaſon to doubt of the ſuperior authenticity of Mr. Roſe's. It may, however, be ſubmitted, whether ſome allowance ſhould not be made for gold coin exported, or clandeſtinely melted, in the courſe of theſe years, which muſt have ſomewhat reduced the amount of co-exiſting gold money at the end of the year 1777.

' alſo iſſued within the time of the recoin-
' age, in value - - - - 1,351,987

5,200,723

' Amount of new gold money at the end of 1777 - 20,447,002
' By eſtimation of men converſant, from their habits
' and obſervation, to judge of the money in currency, the
' heavy gold coin remaining in circulation (i. e. guineas
' weighing 5 dwt, 8 gr, and upwards) was taken, on the
' loweſt, at - - - - - - 5,000,000
' [Beſides which it was underſtood, that about two
' millions of light guineas had been taken out of circula-
' tion, and ſent to America, which it is ſuppoſed, were
' brought back to this country after the war, but no cre-
' dit is taken for them here.]
' Makes the amount of gold money circulating at the
end of 1777 to be - - £25,447,002'

There belonged this year to all the ports
of England - 7,575 veſſels of the reputed burthen of 610,201 tuns,
and of Scotland 1,521 - - - 88,729

Total - 9,096 - - - 698,930

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	British		Foreign		Total	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	8,390	815,517	1,992	252,437	10,382	1,067,954
Outward -	9,556	830,545	877	102,310	10,433	932,855

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year,
was from the cuſtom-houſe in London - £2,199,105 : 19 : 4
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh - 30,000 : 0 : 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain £2,229,105 : 19 : 4

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year
78,780 pounds of gold, value - - £3,683,995 : 10 : 0
and no ſilver.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1776 to Chriſtmas 1777 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Africa	£62,740 1 4		£239,218 3 0	
Canaries	3,379 5 2		18,055 17 8	
Denmark and Norway	103,547 10 7	£25,015 2 7	202,903 3 6	£11,220 11 7
East country	403,166 7 1		85,521 10 2	
East-India	1,834,221 14 9		785,835 2 3	
Flanders	138,280 11 4		944,267 4 10	
France	71,495 7 2	6,062 16 1	130,902 0 10	53,083 3 10
Germany	709,599 6 3	33,914 14 7	1,323,499 9 10	11,305 1 8
Greenland	50,337 16 4	1,748 3 3		
Holland	581,632 2 11	139,758 16 0	1,080,644 2 11	78,727 1 7
Ireland	1,502,893 7 1	150,139 9 11	1,931,800 14 1	209,887 14 1
Manu	6,698 6 6	246 7 10	22,835 3 3	846 10 0
Italy	774,099 9 9	653 5 8	816,160 2 4	2,775 2 0
Madeira	3,323 10 2	184 2 6	9,261 10 7	
Minorca				55 1 10
Poland		12,979 1 10		858 14 3
Portugal	382,708 8 5	21,873 1 3	554,449 8 2	2,021 16 10
Prussia		13,805 12 9		389 2 10
Ruſſia	1,117,315 6 4	199,795 14 10	203,124 14 11	3,267 1 4
Spain	533,641 15 11	10,369 9 1	843,075 4 0	11,740 3 6
Gibraltar		105 7 7		345 2 6
Straits	3,600 0 0		82,003 12 0	
Sweden	206,034 1 11	27,484 13 1	69,981 6 6	2,937 4 1
Turkey	225,586 5 4		177,214 7 0	
Venice	65,892 8 5		41,665 8 5	
Guernſey, &c.	49,522 19 1	989 16 10	60,136 10 7	40 0 0
America in general		11,277 2 3		256,169 6 0
Hudſon's bay	8,243 4 4		6,048 4 0	
Newfoundland	46,066 12 3		122,367 17 3	
Cape Breton	567 18 5			
Quebec	56,882 3 0		586,011 5 11	
Nova-Scotia	8,030 5 4		934,164 3 9	
New-England	1,879 11 6			
New-York	8,429 12 3		57,294 13 6	
Pennſylvania	16 19 1			
Maryland and Virginia	58 7 11			
Carolina	2,233 19 0			
Florida	48,322 5 11		137,617 9 9	
West-Indies in general		145,796 15 0		131,973 17 3
Antigua	134,061 13 0		114,028 0 8	
Barbados	140,137 16 4		132,081 8 4	
Bermuda	2,069 17 9		7,239 12 3	
Dominica	177,397 17 5		47,230 12 0	
Grenada	360,088 12 11		95,209 17 5	
Jamaica	1,303,289 18 8		536,574 6 3	
Montſerrat	27,336 19 5		9,514 7 3	
Nevis	45,142 3 0		12,268 0 9	
New-Providence	4,808 4 10		3,619. 5 7	
St. Croix	8,685 13 4			
St. Euſtathius	1,632 5 4		720 10 6	
St. Chriſtophers	233,632 8 6		83,383 17 1	
St. Thomas	4,748 3 2			
St. Vincents	130,195 2 11		40,230 17 0	
Tobago	42,680 7 0		21,853 1 8	
Tortola	46,945 11 0		21,427 1 1	
Honduras bay	27,744 7 8		490 3 4	
Musquito ſhore	5,282 6 1		1,503 18 0	
Falkland's iſlands	5,984 5 0		196 11 4	
	11,721,327 19 1		12,632,522 2 0	
Prize goods *	120,249 14 2		20,841 5 8	
Imp. and exp. of England	11,841,577 13 3		12,653,363 7 8	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	802,253 12 11	802,253 12 11	837,642 15 2	837,642 15 2
Total, Great Britain	12,643,831 6 2		13,491,006 2 10	

* No prize goods appear by the cuſtom-houſe books t o have been brought to account before this year.

1778—After the declaration of independence the Congreſs of the United ſtates of America ſent plenipotentiaries to ſeveral of the European courts to aſſure them of their determination to ſupport their independence, to ſolicit the aſſiſtance of Germany, France, Spain, and Pruſſia; and in particular to propoſe to France a participation of the trade between the United ſtates and the Weſt-India iſlands; and to concert with France and Spain an arrangement for the diviſion of the conqueſts to be attempted by the arms of the propoſed alliance. According to the plan propoſed by them, Nova Scotia, Cape-Breton, and the half of Newfoundland (Canada is not mentioned) were to be annexed to the United ſtates; the other half of Newfoundland, with a participation of the fiſhery in all the adjacent ſeas, was to be ſecured to France, Britain being totally excluded; and the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands, to be reduced by the united forces of France and America, were to belong entirely to France. Spain was to have only the town of Penſacola; and the free navigation of the Miſſiſſippi was to be referved to the Americans.

Though the French were exceedingly eager to enjoy the trade with America (of their ſucceſs in which, as we have already ſeen, they had little reaſon to boaſt) the government, not being ſufficiently prepared for war, or perhaps not fully determined how to act *, were very reſerved and dilatory in formally acknowleging the independent ſovereignty of the United ſtates, while remonſtrances on our ſide upon their partiality to the Americans, and temporizing anſwers on theirs, ſpun out the time till the French Newfoundland fleet got ſafe into their ports, and their marine forces were brought to a ſtate fit for the commencement of hoſtilities: and then a treaty of friendſhip and commerce, and another of alliance, with the United ſtates of America were ſigned on the ſame day at Paris (6th February).

By the firſt of theſe treaties

Articles 2, 3, 4,) The contracting powers engaged to treat each-other as the moſt favoured nation in all commercial arrangements, in payments of duties, and in all privileges and immunities, in the ports of the French dominions in Europe, and in thoſe of the United ſtates.

6, 7) The king of France engaged to protect the veſſels and effects of the Americans in his ports, and on his coaſts; and that his ſhips of war ſhould protect the American traders upon the Ocean, ſo far as they ſhould keep company with his ſhips. And the United ſtates promiſed equal protection to the veſſels and effects of the French.

8) The king promiſed to uſe his intereſt with the emperor of Morocco and the other piratical Mooriſh governments of Africa, to abſtain from moleſting the American trade.

9) Both parties agreed to abſtain from the fiſhing grounds belonging

* There is good reaſon to believe that the king was dragged into the war, againſt his own judgement, by thoſe about him.

to the other, provided no other nation ſhould have the indulgence, which they hereby agreed to withhold from each-other.

10) The French were to retain all the rights to the Newfoundland fiſhery, conferred upon them by the treaties of Utrecht and Paris.

11) The ſubjects of either power were to enjoy all the privileges of ſubjects, and be exempted from the burthens impoſed upon aliens, in the dominions of the other.

29) Either power had the right of maintaining conſuls, vice-conſuls, agents and commiſſaries in the ports of the other.

30) The king of France promiſed to allow the Americans one or more free ports in Europe, to which they might bring all the commodities of the thirteen ſtates, and alſo the free ports already opened in his Weſt-India iſlands.

The other articles are filled with regulations for the examination of veſſels bound to the ports of powers at war with either of the contracting powers, and for paſſports to protect their veſſels in caſe of ſuch a war, an enumeration of the goods to be conſidered as contraband and liable to confiſcation, regulations for prizes taken by the cruiſers of either power, for the treatment of wrecked veſſels, &c.

By the other treaty it was provided, that ' in caſe Great Britain in ' reſentment of that connection and good correſpondence, which is the ' object of the ſaid treaty [of commerce] ſhould break the peace with ' France, either by direct hoſtilities, or by hindering her commerce ' and navigation,' his Majeſty and the United ſtates ſhould make it a common cauſe, and aid each-other with their councils and forces, in order to maintain effectually the abſolute and unlimited independence and ſovereignty of the United ſtates. The northern parts of America and the Bermuda iſlands, if conquered by the allied powers, were to be annexed to the United ſtates; and any of the iſlands in, or near, the Gulf of Mexico, to be taken from Great Britain, were to belong to France. Neither party was to make peace without firſt obtaining the conſent of the other, nor without an expreſs acknowlegement from Great Britain of the independence of the United ſtates. And both agreed to fulfil the conditions of the treaty without any claim for compenſation on either ſide, and to admit into the alliance any other powers, who might have received injuries from England. Such were the firſt of the treaties between powers ſeparated by the Atlantic ocean; treaties, which were in a ſhort time to ſpread the flames of war from America to every quarter of the globe.

March 13th—The French government, having now deciſively choſen their ground, in a few weeks ſent a declaration to the Britiſh court, giving notice of the treaty of friendſhip and commerce with the United ſtates of America, but without ſaying a word of the treaty of alliance; profeſſing, nevertheleſs, a determination to cultivate the good underſtanding ſub-

ſiſting between France and Great Britain, and hoping his Britannic Majeſty would equally avoid every thing that might tend to interrupt their harmony. The declaration concluded, however, with an aſſurance, that the king of France was determined to protect the lawful commerce of his ſubjects, and to maintain the dignity of his flag, and had in conſequence taken eventual meaſures in concert with the United ſtates.

Immediately after this declaration, which was virtually a declaration of war, the Britiſh ambaſſador was recalled from France, and the French ambaſſador left London. The French laid an embargo on all ſhips in their ports, and, in return, an embargo was laid on all the French ſhips in the ports of Great Britain, which were, however, very few, moſt of them, in apprehenſion of ſuch a meaſure, having previouſly ſailed.

February 11th—In a committee of the houſe of lords upon the ſtate of the nation, the loſſes ſuſtained by the war with America were ſtated as follows.

There were 733 veſſels taken by the Americans, of which 47 had been releaſed, and 127 retaken. The value of the remaining 559 appeared, from the examination of merchants, to be at leaſt £2,600,000: and the loſs in ſalvage, intereſt on the value of the cargoes, and loſs of markets, on the retaken ſhips muſt have amounted to a very conſiderable ſum. Of 200 ſhips, annually employed in the African trade before the commencement of the war, there were not now above 40, whereby there was a deficiency of 160 ſhips, which, valued on an average at £9,000 each, made a diminution of £1,440,000 annually in that one branch of trade*. Inſurance to the Weſt-Indies and North America was raiſed from 2½ to 5 per cent with convoy, and to 15 per cent, if without convoy and unarmed, though in general no inſurance at all could be made on ſhips in ſuch circumſtances. Seamens wages were raiſed from £ 1 10 0 to £ 3 5 0 per month;

Potaſhes,	-	-	-	0	8	0	—	3	10	0	per cwt;
Sperma-ceti oil,	-			35	0	0	—	70	0	0	per tun;
Tar,	-	-	-	0	7	0	—	1	10	0	per barrel;

and ſugars, and other Weſt-India commodities, as well as all kinds of naval ſtores from North America, greatly advanced. The number of American privateers, of which authentic accounts were received, was 173, which carried 2,556 guns, and near 14,000 men. Of theſe 34 were taken, which carried 3,217 men.

In order to comfort the nation for theſe loſſes, it was urged on the other hand, that the loſſes of the Britiſh merchants were not ſo great as

* With great deference to the high authority, from which this ſtatement is derived, it may here be obſerved from later and more correct accounts, that in the year 1771, when the African trade was at its greateſt height, the ſhips fitted out for it from Britain were only 192, that the ſhips in the year 1777 (the year to which the ſtatement muſt be ſuppoſed to refer) were 58, and that the cargoes of ſuch ſhips, on an average of ſeveral years, were under £4,900. The numbers of ſhips, &c. will be ſtated more fully under the year 1788.

they were said to be, and that those from the Americans were still greater; that 904 vessels had been taken from them, which at the very moderate valuation of £2,000 each, would amount to £1,808,000*; and if to that sum the value of the fisheries, of which the Americans were now deprived †, were added, it would appear that this country was already *benefited* £2,200,000 by the war, and that the *advantages* flowing from the war would be still greater in future.

March—The permission to employ foreign seamen onboard merchant ships, in a proportion not exceeding three fourths of their whole complement, was prolonged till the 25th of March 1779. [18 *Geo. III*, *c.* 6.]

The mercantile city of Bristol, which had hitherto been without a theatre-royal, had now one licenced by parliament. [18 *Geo. III*, *c.* 8.]

In a few days after the treaties with America had been concluded at Paris, a conciliatory plan was proposed in parliament, which, it was hoped, would detach the Americans from their new allies, and induce them to return to a connection with the mother country, which should be much more favourable to them than their former condition. In pursuance of this measure, the act [14 *Geo. III*, *c.* 45] for altering the constitution of the province of Massachuset's bay was totally repealed. [18 *Geo. III*, *c.* 11.]

And the British legislature now declared, that 'the king and parliament of Great Britain will not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatever, payable in any of his Majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations, in North America or the West-Indies; except only such

* This reasoning puts one in mind of the story of the attorney, who, when his client complained that he was reduced to his last guinea by his law suit, comforted him with the assurance that his adversary was reduced to his last farthing. But, granting that the ruin of fisherman, merchants, and ship-owners, in America were an advantage to this nation, it was surely no recompense to the individual sufferers in Britain; nor could the value of the American prizes be near so high as it was calculated. None of them were of very great value; and a very great proportion of them were small sloops and schooners, worth less than £500 for vessel and cargo. As to the fisheries, that of Newfoundland and Labrador was scarcely at all increased by the expulsion of the Americans from it, because men could not be found to catch the quantity of fish, which the American fishermen used to catch: the Southern whale fishery, being yet in its infancy, produced but a mere trifle; nor does it at all follow, that if there had been no war, that fishery could have remained exclusively in the hands of the Americans, as it cannot be supposed that the British merchants would have abstained from it merely in complaisance to them.

† The most important consequence of the expulsion of the American fishermen from their proper employment was, that almost all the men, and all the fast-sailing vessels, were immediately, and of necessity, employed in privateering: and the consequence of that was, that 1,095 British vessels, and the cargoes of 13 more, were in the course of the war carried into the fishing ports of Boston, Salem, Beverly, Newbury-port, Marble-head, Gloucester, Haverhill, and Ipswich, in the middle district of Massachuset's bay, as appears by the records of the maritime court, besides what were carried into other ports, and those that were retaken, which are estimated to have been above half as many as were carried into port by the captors. At least 550 sail were computed to have been taken by the privateers belonging to the other two districts of Massachuset's bay; and those belonging to the fishing ports of the other New-England governments were equally successful in destroying the British commerce. Infinitely better had it been for the British merchants, if the hostilities of those men and vessels had still been directed against whales and cods. [See *Coxe's View of the United States of America*, *p.* 345.]

'duties as it may be expedient to impoſe for the regulation of com-
'merce; the net produce of ſuch duties to be always paid and applied
'to and for the uſe of the colony, province, or plantation, in which
'the ſame ſhall be reſpectively levied, in ſuch manner as other duties
'collected by the authority of the reſpective general courts, or gen-
'eral aſſemblies of ſuch colonies, provinces, or plantations, are or-
'dinarily paid and applied.' The duty payable upon tea in North America (by act 7 *Geo. III, c.* 46) was alſo repealed [18 *Geo. III, c.* 12.]

Moreover parliament empowered the king to appoint five commiſſioners to go to America, and there to treat with *any perſons whatſoever* concerning the redreſs of any grievances exiſting, or ſuppoſed to exiſt, in the government of the colonies, or the laws of this country reſpecting them, and concerning any aid to be furniſhed by any of the colonies for the common defence of this realm and the dominions thereunto belonging. Thoſe commiſſioners were authorized to order a ceſſation of hoſtilities, to ſuſpend the operation of any law relating to America paſſed ſince the 10th of February 1763, to grant pardons, and to eſtabliſh government in the king's name. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 13.]

In conſequence of this act five commiſſioners were appointed (April 13th), who finding the congreſs firmly determined againſt entering into any negotiation with them, which ſhould tend to eſtabliſh a dependence of the colonies upon Great Britain, ſoon returned home.

A new act was paſſed, permitting the exportation of limited quantities of corn, &c. for the uſe of the fiſheries at Newfoundland, Nova-Scotia, and Labrador, from the following ports, viz. *

	Wheat-flour,	Peas,	Biscuit,
London, - - -	1,400 qrs.	900 qrs.	850 tuns.
Briſtol, - - -	900	800	800
Poole, - - -	3,200	1,300	1,400
Dartmouth, - - -	2,450	950	1,000
Topſham and Teignmouth,	2,400	1,200	1,100
Barnſtaple, - -	400	150	150
Liverpool, - - -	300	150	150
Weymouth, - -	200	120	60
Cheſter, - -	300	120	100

[18 *Geo. III, c.* 16.]

The duty of one halfpenny on every chaldron of coals ſhipped at Newcaſtle and Sunderland, impoſed for the improvement of the harbour of Scarburgh, and alſo ſome duties on the trade of that port impoſed

* The ſpecification of theſe quantities of proviſions may ſerve to ſhow the proportion of the fiſhing trade of each of the towns.

for the ſame purpoſe, were prolonged for twenty years, to be computed from 24th June 1783. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 20.]

Six millions were raiſed by a loan, for which the ſubſcribers received a permanent intereſt of £3, together with a terminable annuity of £2 : 10 : 0 for thirty years, or, in the option of the ſubſcribers, for life, for every £100 paid in; with a privilege to the ſubſcriber of £500 to have four tickets at £10 each in a lottery, by which the further ſum of £480,000 was to be raiſed. And, in order to guard againſt the many frauds and abuſes practiſed in the negotiation of lottery tickets, it was now enacted, that office-keepers ſelling ſhares of tickets, which they were not poſſeſſed of, ſhould ſuffer three months impriſonment, and pay a fine of £500 *; that every office-keeper ſhould pay £50 for a licence, to be in force for one year; that no ſmaller ſhare of a ticket than a ſixteenth ſhould be ſold †; that all ſhares of tickets ſhould be ſtamped by an officer appointed by the lords of the treaſury: and all ſchemes grafted upon the lottery were declared unlawful, and prohibited ‡. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 22.] In conſequence of this act the number of dealers in lottery tickets was reduced to fifty-one for all England; whereas in the preceding year there were above four hundred lottery offices in and about London only. There was ſtill, however, much room left for reform in lottery tranſactions.

April 16th—Tobacco, which had been exported from Britain, was allowed to be re-imported in the original package, if not manufactured, though it had been ſold abroad, paying duty as on the firſt importation: and tobacco, produced in the iſland of Dominica, was admitted to entry on the ſame terms as tobacco produced in North America. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 24.]

By an act for impoſing duties on dwelling houſes, the warehouſes and other buildings erected for carrying on manufactures or trades were exempted from the duties. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

* When ſuch tickets proved blanks, their price was clear profit to the office-keepers: and, as on the other hand they thereby obliged themſelves to pay the prizes out of their own pockets, the adventurers ſometimes ſaw the cup of their good fortune daſhed from their lips, when they thought themſelves ſure of it. One office-keeper at York became bankrupt for a large ſum, in conſequence of having ſold ſeveral copies of one number, which unfortunately for him, and indeed for all concerned, came up a prize of £20,000.

† Before this regulation took place, ſixty-fourth ſhares were ſold in every office, which brought a lottery adventure within the reach of all, who could by any means command five ſhillings. And there was at leaſt one office in the year 1777 (whoſe advertiſement upon the cover of a magazine is now before me) that offered three-hundredth ſhares at one ſhilling each.

‡ Beſides miniature lotteries with ſhilling tickets, there were tickets iſſued by publiſhers of lady's pocket books, almanacks, ſong books, and magazines, who all had agents all over the three kingdoms, and alſo by bakers, dealers in potatoes, penny-barbers, &c. promiſing certain ſums to their cuſtomers, if their numbers ſhould turn out conſiderable prizes in the lottery. But all theſe projectors wiſely excluded the ſmall and middling prizes (almoſt the whole in point of number) as beneath the attention of the adventurers: and accordingly it frequently happened, that their agents in the country towns accounted to them for ſeveral hundred tickets, without having one prize to retain for their own neighbours, who had bought the ſwindling tickets from them.

An additional duty of £8 : 8 : 0 per tun was laid on all French wines, and of £4 : 4 : 0 per tun on all other wines. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

The duties, formerly collected for improving the harbour of Rye in Suſſex, were continued for twenty-one years. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 32.]

The corporation of the Trinity houſe was empowered to rebuild and maintain the light-houſe on the rocks called the Smalls, in S^t. George's channel, (firſt erected in the year 1776) and to levy a ſmall tunnage duty on all veſſels benefited by the light. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 42.]

Several acts, which were near expiring, were continued, as follows.

The act for granting an allowance on the exportation of Britiſh-made gun-powder, continued to 29^th September 1785.

The act for the encouragement of Britiſh-made ſail-cloth, continued to 29^th September 1785 *.

The act for carrying Britiſh ſugars from the place of their growth in Britiſh-built veſſels, navigated according to law, directly to foreign parts, continued to 29^th September 1785.

The act for puniſhing perſons going armed in defiance of the revenue laws, continued to 29^th September 1785.

The act prohibiting the importation of light ſilver coin, &c. continued to 1^st May 1783.

The act for allowing a bounty on flax-ſeed imported into Ireland, continued to 1^st January 1780.

The act for the better regulation of pilots conducting veſſels into the Thames, continued to 25^th March 1792.

The act for allowing the exportation of wheat, &c. to the ſugar colonies, S^t. Helena, India, and the fiſheries of Newfoundland, &c. continued to 1^st May 1779. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 45.]

The city of London was empowered by various acts to borrow ſeveral ſums of money for the purpoſe of completing ſome public works, widening ſtreets, and making other improvements. [18 *Geo. III, cc.* 48-51, 71, 73, 77, *et ſeqq.*]

Among the articles of the expenditure of the public money this year we find £105,227 : 8 : 3 for defraying the expenſe of recoining the deficient gold money. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 54.]

May 28^th—When the Navigation act [12 *Car. II, c.* 18] was paſſed, the advantages ſecured by it to the national commerce were extended to Ireland as well as to England. But, by a reſtriction, which was now ſtigmatized in parliament by Mr. Burke as 'a left-handed policy,' and afterwards by Lord North, as 'narrow prejudice and blind policy,' the Iriſh were ſoon deprived of the commercial benefits reſulting from this

* Perhaps we may aſcribe to the continued encouragement of thoſe acts the following rapid decreaſe of the importation of ſail-cloth from Ruſſia: there were 11,580 pieces in the year 1774; 6,757 pieces in 1775; 2,659 pieces in 1776; 1,565 pieces in 1777; and 421 pieces in 1778.

famous act, and placed, with reſpect to commercial liberty, almoſt in the ſituation of foreigners. The commercial diſtreſſes ſuffered by Ireland from thoſe reſtrictions, it was now aſſerted, had rendered that country incapable of ſupporting the great expenſes attached to the government of it, and called aloud for relief. On the firſt introduction of a propoſal in parliament for the relief of Ireland (April 2[d]) the motion, which was made by adminiſtration, had the uncommon good fortune to be alſo cordially ſupported by the principal members, and the greateſt number, of the oppoſition, as a meaſure, not only of juſtice, but alſo of prudence and real policy. It was obſerved, that the reſtrictions upon the commerce and manufactures of Ireland, which originated in a great degree from a zeal for promoting the proſperity of the favourite woollen manufacture of England, had produced effects diametrically oppoſite to the intentions of thoſe who planned them, and driven the Iriſh into a neceſſity of exporting their wool, in a manner too open to be called clandeſtine *, to the rivals of England, who bought it up with the greateſt avidity at a higher price than was given by the Engliſh manufacturers, and were, notwithſtanding, enabled, principally by the cheapneſs of their living, to underſell us in foreign markets. The buſineſs being thus brought into parliament, the further conſideration of it was poſtponed till after the Eaſter holidays, when, from ſuch an harmonious commencement, it might have been expected to go ſmoothly through the parliamentary forms: but the event was very different.

During the receſs a ſtrong oppoſition was induſtriouſly formed againſt the Iriſh bills; and moſt of the commercial and manufacturing communities in Great Britain, forgetting that reciprocity and competition ſerve to animate, inſtead of injuring, commerce and manufactures, eſpecially thoſe intended for foreign conſumption, were ſomehow made to apprehend, that whatever ſhould be granted to the Iriſh muſt be taken from them, and were thereupon ſtirred up to petition ſtrenuouſly againſt any indulgence to Ireland, which, they alleged, would be enabled by the low price of labour, and the low rate of taxes †, to underſell and ruin the Britiſh manufacturers. In the midſt of this buſtle and alarm, which infected almoſt all ranks of people to a degree that poſterity would, per-

* Similar cauſes produce ſimilar effects. Doctor Anderſon was informed in the year 1784, that they had begun to ſmuggle wool to France from the Weſtern iſlands of Scotland: and he obſerves, that all the ſmuggling trade now carried on in Britain is believed to owe its foundation to the ſmuggling of wool. He moreover aſcribes the degenerated quality of our wool, and ſeveral other bad conſequences, to the ſevere laws againſt the exportation of wool. [*Anderſon's Preſent ſtate of the Hebrides [Weſtern iſlands], p.* 121.]

† It was urged that the people of Ireland paid only 10*s* each on an average to the revenue, while thoſe of Britain paid £2 each; and thence the Iriſh could afford to work ſo much cheaper than Britiſh workmen. If as great a proportion of the people were employed in profitable labour as of the people of Britain, that argument might have its full weight; but it needs not be demonſtrated, that the payment of 10*s* may be a greater hardſhip upon one man, than that of £2 is upon another: and it was well obſerved by Mr. Burke upon this occaſion, that 'taxes muſt follow wealth, not precede it.'

haps, ſcarcely credit if it were to be enlarged upon, the city of London had the honour to maintain the ſuperiority of its character, remaining unmoved by the clamour, and taking no concern in oppoſing the emancipation of Ireland.

Without entering into the queſtion, whether the capacity of executing work cheaper be a ſufficient reaſon for tying up the hands of thoſe, who can furniſh a commodity on the loweſt terms, in order to tax ourſelves * with a monopoly for the benefit of thoſe, who are already in poſſeſſion of a manufacture, for which they make the public pay great prices; or into the queſtion, whether the higheſt prices are not generally given to workmen by thoſe manufacturers, who from the greatneſs of their capitals, the ſuperiority of their machinery, the privilege, conferred by the greatneſs of their buſineſs, of ſelecting their cuſtomers, and other advantages inſeparable from the eſtabliſhed poſſeſſion of a trade, are enabled to underſell their poorer and younger competitors in buſineſs; and conſequently, whether the propoſition, that lower wages will infallibly, and in all caſes, produce cheaper goods, be not fallacious; it is ſufficient to relate, that after a keen altercation in parliament, and hearing counſel, and examining evidence, on various parts of the buſineſs, the friends of Ireland thought proper, at leaſt for the preſent, to give up ſome part of their demands; and

The Iriſh were allowed after the 24th of June 1778 to export to the Britiſh ſettlements in America and Africa the produce and manufactures of Ireland, with the exception of wool and woollen manufactures of every ſort, cotton manufactures of all ſorts mixed or unmixed, hats, glaſs, hops, gun-powder, and coals. They were alſo allowed to export all kinds of Britiſh goods lawfully imported, except woollen goods and glaſs; and they were moreover allowed to export foreign goods legally imported by certificate, except linens. But they were prohibited from exporting iron, and iron wares, till the Iriſh parliament ſhould lay a preſcribed duty on them; and they were in like manner enjoined to charge duties and taxes on all their manufactures, equivalent to thoſe paid on ſimilar manufactures of Britiſh fabric, whether on the raw materials or finiſhed goods. Veſſels, owned by the Iriſh, were intitled to receive the bounties for fiſheries of every kind; and veſſels, built in Ireland, were thenceforth to be conſidered as Britiſh-built veſſels. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 55.]

Cotton yarn, ſpun in Ireland, was alſo allowed to be imported into Great Britain free of duty. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 56.]

All ſugars, ſhipped from any Britiſh colony, without a proper certificate of their being the produce of the colony at which they are ſhipped, were made liable to pay duty as foreign ſugars. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 58.]

* Only ourſelves; for foreigners will pay no attention to our laws, but buy where they can be cheapeſt ſerved.

A proper harbour on the ſouth ſide of the Murray firth being much wanted for the protection of veſſels navigating the northern ſeas, and the mouth of the River Findhorn being eſteemed a commodious place for that purpoſe, Mr. Munro of Novar undertook to erect and maintain the neceſſary buildings, on being empowered by parliament to receive a ſmall duty from veſſels uſing the harbour, and goods landed in it. [18 *Geo. III, c.* 70.]

June 23d—In the light-houſe at Ipſwich a trial was made of a new improvement in the manner of conſtructing lights for the benefit of veſſels at ſea, which conſiſts in reflecting the light of a great aſſemblage of lamps from about a thouſand ſmall mirrors; and it was found to produce the appearance of a vaſt globe of fire, when obſerved at ſea in the night.

The Eaſt-India company raiſed their annual dividend to *eight per cent*, at which rate the Midſummer dividend was paid.

The moſt anxious apprehenſions were entertained for the ſafety of two fleets of Eaſt-India ſhips, which could not poſſibly be ſufficiently prepared for war, and alſo of two fleets of Weſt-India ſhips, now on their way home, which together conſtituted a great proportion of the Britiſh trade, were of a prodigious value, and were all now in danger of running into the arms of the enemy; for the Channel was at this time covered by a French fleet, the frigates of which were very numerous beyond the uſual proportion, and very widely diſperſed; while the Britiſh fleet, commanded by Admiral Keppel, was placed between them and the coaſt of France. This poſition of the two fleets, and the prevalence of the weſterly winds, might have enabled the French frigates to pick up our ſhips, even in ſight of the Britiſh admiral, who would have been unable to go to their aſſiſtance. But happily all thoſe apprehenſions were removed by the conſequences of the engagement between the two fleets, after which the French immediately retreated in the night to the harbour of Breſt (July 27th): and though they afterwards put to ſea again, they ſtill evaded coming to action, and ſpent the ſeaſon in cruiſing on the coaſt of Spain to no viſible purpoſe. In the meantime Admiral Keppel, having left two ſhips of the line to protect the homeward-bound trade while he refitted his fleet at Plymouth, was very ſoon at ſea again, and rode triumphant in the Channel during the remainder of the ſeaſon, whereby the ſituation of the floating property of the two countries was entirely reverſed. All the Britiſh ſhips from every quarter of the world arrived in perfect ſafety; and a very great number of the French ſhips fell into the hands of our cruiſers *. Thus the action of the 27th of July, though not deciſive with reſpect to the contending

* The damage ſuffered by the French commerce on this occaſion is eſtimated by Rayaal at from 80 to 100 millions of livres. [*Hiſt. phil. et polit. V.* ix, *p.* 216.]

fleets engaged, was productive of all the beneficial conſequences which the moſt complete victory could have conferred, with reſpect to the commercial proſperity of this kingdom.

The duty of four and a half per cent on all dead produce ſhipped from Barbados and the other ſugar colonies, except Jamaica and the Ceded iſlands, having ever ſince the firſt commencement of it in the year 1663 been paid in kind, a collector of the cuſtoms in one of the iſlands, in his great regard for the intereſt of the crown, refuſed to receive the ſugars, &c. as formerly, alleging that the worſt produce was given in payment of the duty. The planters thereupon refuſed to ſhip any produce; and ſo the matter reſted till the arrival of Admiral Barrington, who carried over orders to receive the produce according to the old eſtabliſhed cuſtom.

From the very commencement of the troubles in America the Dutch, as I have already had occaſion more than once to obſerve, had taken every opportunity, compatible with their characteriſtic national cautiouſneſs, to enter into commercial engagements with the Americans. Soon after the French concluded their treaties with them as independent ſtates, the politics of that nation ſo far prevailed in Holland, that Mr. Van Berkel, conſelor and penſionary of the city of Amſterdam, which is well known to influence the whole Dutch confederacy, commiſſioned Mr. Neufville, a merchant of that city, to draw up, in concert with Mr. Lee, the commiſſioner from the American congreſs, a ſketch of a treaty of amity and commerce, in order to eſtabliſh, as Mr. Neufville expreſſes it, the union of the *Twenty ſtates*, (i. e. the Dutch ſeven and the American thirteen) and, as they wiſhed ſtill to keep it ſecret, thoſe gentlemen met at Aix-la-chapelle, where they ſigned the treaty (September 4th), the ſubſtance of which is as follows.

After premiſing that their connection ſhould be eſtabliſhed on the baſis of perfect equality and reciprocal utility, and that each party ſhould be at liberty to admit other nations to a participation of the advantages now agreed upon to be mutually enjoyed by the contracting powers, it proceeds to ſtipulate, that

Article 2) The Dutch ſhould pay only the ſame duties in the American ports, that the Americans themſelves pay, and ſhould alſo enjoy equal privileges with them, as well in paſſing between the different ſtates, as when bound to other parts of the world.

3) The Americans ſhould enjoy all the ſame advantages in the ports of Holland.

4) The ſubjects of either power were to have perfect freedom to travel in the territories of the other, conforming however, to the laws of the country.

5) The ſubjects of both ſhould have liberty to import in their veſſels all kinds of goods not particularly prohibited; to open warehouſes for

diſpoſing of their goods by wholeſale; to purchaſe all kinds of goods not particularly prohibited; and to carry them wherever they pleaſed.

8, 9) The Dutch engaged to protect the veſſels and effects of the Americans in their ports and on their coaſts; and that their ſhips of war ſhould protect the American traders at ſea, ſo far as they ſhould keep company with them. And the United ſtates promiſed equal protection to the veſſels and effects of the Dutch.

10) The Dutch promiſed to uſe their intereſt with the emperor of Morocco, and the other piratical Mooriſh governments of Africa, to abſtain from moleſting the American trade.

11—27) The next ſeventeen articles contain regulations for preſerving the property of the deceaſed; for the conduct of merchants, commanders of veſſels and ſeamen; for examining veſſels at ſea, and how to proceed with reſpect to contraband goods; for ſhips of war and privateers with reſpect to veſſels taken or retaken by them; for the treatment of veſſels wrecked, &c.

28) The veſſels of either power were at liberty to navigate to and from all ports whatſoever, not excepting thoſe of the enemies of the other power, and freely to carry the property of ſuch enemies, and alſo their perſons, except only their military forces, as paſſengers.

29) In the enumeration of goods, which might be freely carried by the veſſels of either power to a nation at war with the other, excepting only to towns beſieged or blocked up, are not only wool, ſilk, &c. and the goods manufactured from them, gold and ſilver, corn, and other articles of proviſions, but alſo ſhip timber, ſails, canvaſs, and whatever is not formed into the ſhape of warlike weapons.

30) In caſe of either of the powers being engaged in war, the veſſels belonging to the other were to be furniſhed with annual paſſports and certificates.

34) Each power agreed to receive conſuls, commiſſaries, &c. appointed by the other.

So very cloſely was this treaty conducted, that the Britiſh miniſtry got their firſt knowlege of it by a copy found in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Laurens, when he was taken at ſea in his paſſage from America for Holland in September 1780.

The iſland of Dominica, ever ſince the year 1766, when its harbours of Prince Ruperts bay and Roſeau (the name of which General Melville, the firſt Britiſh governor-general, changed to Charlottetown) were declared free ports, had enjoyed a conſiderable ſhare of commercial proſperity from the reſort of French and Spaniſh veſſels, which brought mules, cattle, indigo, cotton, and bullion, in exchange for negroes and Britiſh manufactures. Its produce was alſo conſiderably increaſed, though not in the proportion that might be inferred from the cuſtom-houſe accounts of the imports from it, a great part of which muſt be allowed to be the produce of foreign iſlands brought into its free ports.

The ſituation of it between the French iſlands of Guadaloupe and Martinique, both in ſight, renders it a poſt of great importance in time of war; and accordingly no pains nor expenſe were ſpared in fortifying it. But fortifications and guns are of no avail without men. The whole military force ſtationed in the iſland conſiſted of *ſix* officers and ninety-four privates, when it was attacked by the marquis de Bouillé, the governor-general of Martinique, (7th September) with a large fleet of frigates and privateers, carrying above 2,000 regular troops beſides a crowd of volunteers. After a gallant defence by the few ſoldiers and the Britiſh part of the militia (for the French inhabitants diſappeared during the attack) the iſland ſubmitted to the marquis, who granted very liberal terms of capitulation, whereby the inhabitants were allowed to retain their religion and civil government, and all their property on the iſland of every kind, which privilege was alſo extended to the abſent proprietors.

The neighbouring iſlands muſt have immediately followed the fortune of Dominica, had not the opportune arrival of Admiral Barrington protected them, and checked the career of the French for the preſent.

September, October—The acquiſition of Dominica by the French was fully balanced by the heavy loſſes ſuſtained in their floating commerce in conſequence of their fleets relinquiſhing the protection of it. Among the prizes taken from them about this time, the moſt important were the Modeſte from China, loaded chiefly with tea, and valued at £300,000, taken by the Porcupine ſloop of war; the Gaſton, alſo an Indiaman, taken by two privateers of Liverpool, and eſtimated at £500,000, the moſt valuable part of the cargo of another India-man, which was wrecked, being onboard her in addition to her own; beſides about forty ſail of Weſt-India ſhips with valuable cargoes, eſtimated on an average worth £15,000 each *.

In the Weſt-Indies the loſs of Dominica might have been fully compenſated by the acquiſition of S^t. Lucia. Since the peace of 1763, whereby the poſſeſſion of that iſland was confirmed to France, it had been cultivated with conſiderable ſucceſs. It contained fifty-three ſugar plantations, beſides a very great number of ſettlements in coffee, cacao, and cotton: and its population conſiſted of 2,300 white people, 1,050 free people of colour, and 16,000 negro ſlaves. Of the produce exported, amounting to 3,000,000 livres (£133,333 : 6 : 8 ſterling) in value, about two thirds went into the hands of the Americans, Britiſh, and Dutch, in payment of their commodities and manufactures, and the remainder was ſent to Martinique, whence it was ſhipped for France. But it was ſuppoſed capable of raiſing produce to the amount of nine or ten millions of livres annually, if fully cultivated. Such was the iſland of S^t. Lucia, according to the Abbé Raynal, [*V.* vii, *p.* 50] whoſe

* So covered was the ſea at this time by Britiſh cruiſers, that a Liſbon packet was boarded by above forty of them in the courſe of her ſhort paſſage.

account of a French colony may be preſumed to be correct, when it was reduced (December) by Admiral Barrington and General Meadows: and the amount of its imports to Britain during the war ſhows, that, if it had remained under the Britiſh dominion, a proper application of capital and induſtry could ſoon have rendered it one of the moſt important of our Weſt-India iſlands after Jamaica.

While theſe various operations of war were going forward in the Weſt-Indies, the planters and merchants concerned in the proſperity of our ſugar colonies made frequent and earneſt applications to the miniſtry for a naval force to be ſent for the protection of their property. To theſe they conſtantly received palliative anſwers, but no poſitive aſſurance of relief, the whole naval force that could be ſpared from home ſervice, being, in truth, engroſſed by the hoſtile operations againſt the American ſtates. So, finding no proſpect of help from that quarter, they deſiſted from further application, after deſiring the firſt lord of the admiralty to remember, that they had diſcharged the duty they owed to themſelves and to the public, by warning him of the great danger to which the vaſt Britiſh capital, employed in the cultivation of the iſlands, was expoſed by the total want of a protecting force, and the hoſtile preparations going forward in the French and Spaniſh iſlands. They next addreſſed (16th December) a petition to the king, as *the conſtitutional guardian of the property of all his ſubjects*, wherein they repreſented to him, that by the privation of the wonted ſupplies of proviſions and lumber from America, the iſlands were reduced to a ſcarcity of food almoſt approaching to famine, and their eſtates were in abſolute want of many articles eſſentially neceſſary to their culture, whereby their produce was greatly diminiſhed; that their property to a very great amount had been taken by the enemy upon the ſeas; that their applications to his miniſters had been without effect; that the war of deſolation, declared by the commiſſioners againſt America, would probably provoke retaliations, in the courſe of which the unprotected ſugar iſlands might be ruined, even by a ſmall armament, conducted by people perfectly well acquainted with every part of them; and that ſuch calamities muſt greatly affect his revenue and maritime power, and alſo the manufactures, commerce, and wealth, of his ſubjects in general.

In the meantime the Dutch were in great hopes, that, by virtue of their profeſſed neutrality they ſhould be enabled to recover their former pre-eminence as the general carriers and factors of Europe. But great numbers of their veſſels being ſeized by the Britiſh cruiſers, as having French property and naval ſtores onboard, the Dutch merchants and owners of veſſels made heavy complaints to the States-general, that their ſhips loaded with maſts, planks, hemp, and other articles from the Baltic, and even ſhips loaded with other kinds of goods, bound to France, were ſeized and carried into Britiſh ports. In conſequence of their complaints the Dutch ambaſſador at London preſented a me-

morial to the king, wherein he remonſtrated againſt the detention of their veſſels, and demanded their releaſe (September 28th). In reply, the earl of Suffolk informed him, that the king had given orders, that all the Dutch veſſels loaded with unexceptionable cargoes ſhould be releaſed, and the naval commanders ſhould be directed not to interrupt their *lawful commerce*; and that the naval ſtores, which were ſeized, ſhould be paid for at a fair valuation, together with the freight, and a reaſonable allowance for expenſes and damages (October 19th).

Notwithſtanding the flattering picture of the profits and advantages accruing to the nation from the war, drawn by ſome ſpeakers in parliament in the beginning of this year, the calamities inſeparable from a ſtate of warfare, which the buſtle of preparations at the commencement of it had in a great meaſure kept out of ſight, and the rapid fortunes made by thoſe, who were drawing great emoluments out of the national purſe, had varniſhed over with an impoſing glare of proſperity, were now too generally and ſeverely felt by the commercial part of the community in the loſs of their veſſels, and the derangement and ruin of their trade. Hence the number of bankruptcies this year roſe to the unprecedented number of 675, of which there were 83 in the one month of November; conſiderably more than twice as many as there were in a year at the beginning of this century: and the exceſs would be ſtill greater, if we could compare the amount, as well as the number, of the bankruptcies at the beginning of the century with thoſe of this year. It has been aſſumed as a maxim, that a great number of bankruptcies is a proof of the greatneſs of commerce, and that the increaſe of the one keeps pace with the extenſion of the other. But the events of this year furniſh at leaſt one exception to that rule; for the exports of it appear to be above five millions ſhort of thoſe of the year 1774, during which there were only 360 bankruptcies*: and a conſiderable part of the goods now exported were carried, not into the ports they were conſigned to, but into American and French ports, by prize-maſters.

This year the legiſlative aſſembly of Jamaica granted an excluſive patent to Mr. Samuel Sainthill for introducing the uſe of clarifiers in the proceſs of boiling ſugar †.

For ages after the diſcovery of the art of printing there was no perſon in this country capable of making good types for the printers, and they continued to be imported from Holland, Germany, &c. till Caſlon aroſe, who firſt attempted with ſucceſs to make elegant types: and thoſe of his manufacture ſoon obtained ſuch a character, that the continent

* See Mr. Chalmers's Table of bankruptcies during this century in his *Eſtimate of the comparative ſtrength of Great Britain*, *p.* xlvi, *ed.* 1794.

† For a deſcription of the clarifier and the uſe of it, the reader is referred to the *Hiſtory of the Weſt-Indies*, *V.* ii, *p.* 225, *ed.* 1794, by Mr. Edwards, who aſcribes the *original* merit of the improvement to his friend John Proculus Baker Eſq', whoſe *Eſſay on the art of making muſcovado ſugar*, publiſhed in the year 1775, he ſays, is 'a performance, that, for uſeful knowledge, lucid order, and elegance, both in arrangement and compoſition, would have done honour to the firſt writer of the age.'

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of Europe, instead of supplying us with that most important article, imported the types of his founding. Mr. William Caslon, who survived his father about twenty years, and died this year, carried the art to still higher perfection. But he was not the only man, who improved upon his father's art, which soon spread into various parts of these kingdoms, and was carried to great perfection, especially by Mr. John Baskerville * of Birmingham and Messieurs Foulis of Glasgow: and it is likely to flourish as long as a taste for literature shall continue to adorn the nation. It is owing to the improvements of those friends of their country, that printed books come now to be considered as an important British manufacture, and constitute a very great article of exportation.

The British and French imports at Hamburgh and Bremen in the course of this year were as follows.

	Hamburgh.	Bremen.
From Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West-Indies	£1,125,426 16 0	£182,906 3 0
from France - - -	810,217 14 0	211,412 12 0

The cargoes carried from the British dominions to Hamburgh employed 131 vessels, whereof 87 were British. The imports from France to the same city employed 143 vessels, of which *only two* were French.

This is the first time for several years that the British imports at Hamburgh exceeded those of the French, who thus appear to have begun immediately to feel in their commerce the effects of the war, they very wantonly plunged themselves into. Unfortunately in such cases the authors of the war are exempted from feeling the calamity, which falls entirely upon those, who had no hand in the pernicious policy whereby they are ruined.

It may be observed, as a proof of the increasing opulence, as well as luxury, of the kingdom (for luxury cannot exist without opulence) that the duty upon coaches, which in the year 1774 produced £42,000, arose this year to the sum of £117,000; whence it appears, that 23,000 coaches were now kept. The increase of coaches was not, however, quite in proportion to the increase of the duty, because additional duties were laid on in the year 1776.

The East-India company had not been wanting in their preparations for the expected war with France. So prompt, decisive, and secret, were their measures, and so peculiarly fortunate were they in a rapid conveyance of their dispatches, that their forces appear to have attacked the French factories at Chandenagore, Yaman, Karical, and Masulipatam, and taken some French vessels in the Ganges, so early as the beginning of July. Afterwards their troops under the command of Gen

* After the death of Mr. Baskerville in the year 1775 his heirs wished to dispose of his types; and, strange to tell, they could not find a purchaser for them in Britain. At length they were sold for £3,700 to a literary society in Paris, where, it is said, they have expended *a hundred thousand pounds* (Quere, if French, or British, money?) in printing the works of Voltaire. [*Hutton's Hist. of Birmingham, p.* 123, *ed.* 1795.]

eral Munro, in conjunction with the few Britiſh ſhips of war in thoſe ſeas, commanded by Sir Edward Vernon, reduced Pondicherry, the chief ſettlement of the French, after a ſiege of nine weeks (16th October). By theſe events the power and commerce of the French were extinguiſhed in India.

The following is an account of the net produce, in French money, of the public ſales at L'Orient of merchandize imported by the ſubjects of France, who engaged in the Eaſt-India trade after the ſuſpenſion of the French Eaſt-India company in the year 1769*.

Years.	Merchandize imported from			Total ſales of the year.
	India.	China.	the iſles of France and Bourbon.	
1771	£3,256,620 2 5	£5,173,712 13 4	£1,906,171 8 11	£10,336,504 4 8
1772	9,180,129 17 3	4,699,843 2 7	1,468,173 16 10	15,348,146 16 8
1773	8,711,734 9 11	5,822,047 18 0	650,128 15 6	15,183,911 3 5
1774	8,475,691 14 4	8,375,808 7 5	563,904 14 3	17,615,404 16 0
1775	10,906,218 17 1	10,912,593 12 0	507,769 11 6	22,326,582 0 7
1776	19,402,422 1 10	6,504,327 17 6	1,019,329 16 8	26,926,079 16 0
1777	16,616,961 14 6	10,110,327 4 0	782,475 14 0	27,509,764 12 6
1778	9,561,869 19 0	4,300,303 5 6	164,021 14 0	14,026,194 18 6
	86,111,648 16 4	56,098,963 15 4	7,061,995 11 8	149,272,588 3 4

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	7,368	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	606,150 tuns,
and of Scotland	1,617	- - - -	94,915
Total	8,985		701,065

There were entered this year at all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward	6,378	701,735	1,742	199,365	8,120	901,100
Outward	7,687	732,558	798	93,778	8,485	826,336

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was

from the cuſtom-houſe in London	-	£2,142,681	2 0
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh	-	20,000	0 0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain		£2,162,681	2 0

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

7,500 pounds of gold, value	- -	£350,437	10 0
and no ſilver.			

* This account is taken from Raynal, who may be depended upon for his ſtatements of French commercial accounts; as the old government of France, while they involved all matters of finance in impenetrable myſtery, did not ſuppreſs, nor lock up, official accounts of commercial facts.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1777 to Chriſtmas 1778 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£81,951 16 4		£154,086 1 10	
Canaries	4,901 19 0		81,840 13 4	
Denmark and Norway	88,819 4 11	£20,189 1 5	163,655 10 0	£6,289 12 5
East country	310,306 8 5		73,110 3 6	
East-India	1,526,130 10 7		1,199,827 12 4	
Flanders	71,355 15 2		1,077,982 17 3	
France	23,260 14 2	6,145 5 8	29,411 16 7	
Germany	588,198 14 0	10,383 4 7	1,214,929 19 7	3,881 15 5
Greenland	35,358 11 0	2,750 0 0	258 12 0	
Holland	346,357 18 9	107,434 17 0	1,390,174 7 5	78,665 2 11
Ireland	1,360,688 7 11	121,468 17 10	1,470,671 18 2	345,960 14 2
Mann	12,128 8 10	180 6 10	25,779 1 4	296 14 8
Italy	395,742 12 6	1,917 11 7	555,632 18 8	
Madeira	1,593 16 8		23,083 0 9	
Majorca		648 12 6		
Poland		9,989 6 3		578 6 9
Portugal	340,576 14 9	25,264 10 0	430,936 16 2	182 1 8
Prussia		11,950 18 7		
Russia	987,674 7 11	115,565 18 5	194,915 18 2	7,818 11 9
Spain	415,702 1 2	9,427 18 7	980,352 18 1	3,849 16 11
Gibraltar		0 1 8		
Straits	2,176 7 2		70,568 3 9	
Sweden	223,155 12 11	18,541 13 5	82,282 14 1	1,221 14 2
Turkey	148,919 1 6		50,128 19 11	
Venice	53,409 16 10		31,063 9 10	
Guernsey, &c.	49,145 18 8	1,952 19 9	54,586 4 6	725 0 0
America in general		32,891 4 6		120,542 8 8
Hudson's bay	6,589 10 1		8,196 13 11	
Newfoundland	45,550 14 7		133,577 13 1	
Cape Breton			42 0 0	
Quebec	73,430 4 6		555,061 1 5	
Nova Scotia	5,329 18 4		332,1561 0 0	
New England	371 14 1			
New York	16,192 4 1		26,449 2 8	
Pennsylvania	56 5 0		7,537 6 7	
Carolina	1,073 18 9			
Florida	48,236 7 7		64,165 8 1	
West-Indies in general		243,931 14 6		132,808 5 1
Antigua	160,635 7 7		107,344 12 8	
Barbados	80,008 8 0		106,641 4 1	
Bermuda	4,130 1 1		14,584 10 8	
Dominica	162,408 10 8		31,813 5 3	
Grenada	374,689 9 3		85,829 3 3	
Jamaica	1,372,677 1 4		486,870 4 6	
Montserrat	45,725 3 1		8,693 16 6	
Nevis	73,636 7 11		20,020 12 2	
St. Eustathius	2,093 15 1		1,453 10 0	
St. Christophers	223,690 13 9		75,544 15 0	
St. Thomas	404 8 7			
St. Vincents	112,252 4 4		25,914 18 9	
Tobago	95,284 17 5		22,833 5 6	
Tortola	61,840 0 6		32,305 15 7	
Bay of Honduras	44,003 14 0		1,174 14 9	
Musquito shore	6,620 19 6		3,935 2 10	
Southern fishery	2,049 10 0			
	10,086,536 8 3		11,507,525 4 6	
Prize goods	206,707 9 8		43,544 18 0	
Imp. and exp. of England	10,293,243 17 11		11,551,070 2 6	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	740,654 3 1	740,654 3 1	702,820 4 7	702,820 4 7
Total Great Britain	11,033,898 1 0		12,253,890 7 1	

1779, February 5th—There being a great ſcarcity of Italian organzined ſilk, which is indiſpenſibly neceſſary for the warp in ſilk manufactures, the importation of the proper kinds of it, from any port, and in any veſſels whatſoever, was permitted till twenty days after the commencement of the next ſeſſion of parliament: and it was ordered, that all ſilk, imported in conſequence of this permiſſion, ſhould be entered in the cuſtom-houſe at London, wherever it might be landed. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 9.]

March 16th—The permiſſion to navigate merchant ſhips with foreign ſeamen for three fourths of their complements was continued till the 25th of March 1780. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 14.]

Seven millions were raiſed this year by a loan, for which the ſubſcribers received a permanent intereſt of £3, together with a terminable annuity of £3 : 15 : 0 for twenty-nine years, or in their option for life, for every £100 paid in; with a privilege to the ſubſcriber of £1000 to have ſeven tickets at £10 each in a lottery, by which the further ſum of £490,000 was to be raiſed. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 18.]

April 1st—Several acts which were near expiring, were continued for limited times, as follows.

The act 8 Geo. I, &c. for encouraging the importation of lumber, &c. from the Britiſh colonies in America, continued to 29th September 1785.

The act permitting rum to be landed before the exciſe duty is paid down, continued to 29th September 1785.

The act permitting the importation of tallow, lard, and greaſe, free of duty, continued to 25th March 1782.

The act for regulating the fees of cuſtom-houſe officers in America, continued to 1st Auguſt 1782.

The act permitting the exportation of wheat, &c. to the ſugar iſlands, Eaſt-India, Newfoundland, &c. continued to 1st May 1780.

And at the ſame time rum, or ſpirits of the produce of the Britiſh ſugar colonies, ſhipped as ſtores onboard veſſels bound to foreign countries, in caſks containing not leſs than 100 gallons, was allowed the ſame drawback of duty, as if ſhipped as merchandize. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 22.]

A new duty of five per cent on the former duties of cuſtoms and exciſe was laid on all articles liable to them, with ſome few exceptions. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

The adventurers in the herring fiſhery on the weſt coaſt of Scotland were ſo much diſtreſſed by the increaſed prices of barrels, ſalt, naval ſtores, and ſeamen's wages, theſe articles having advanced ſince the commencement of the war from 100 to 400 per cent, that the buſineſs had been rapidly declining ſince the year 1776*. But theſe were not

* For its increaſe after the commencement of the reduced bounty, regularly paid, ſee above, p. 595. Campbelltown, the chief rendezvous of the fiſhery, was raiſed by it from having only 4 ſmall veſſels and 3,000 or 4,000 inhabitants in the year 1750, to the poſſeſſion of 62 ſtout veſſels carrying

the only obſtructions to the ſucceſs of that important nurſery of ſeamen, and ſource of opulence. The act, [11 *Geo. III, c.* 31] by which the bounty was reduced to thirty ſhillings per tun, obliged the buſſes to be at the place of rendezvous *on or before* the 22d of June for the ſummer fiſhing, and *on or before* the 1st of October for the winter fiſhing. And, as if the reſtrictions of the act had not been ſufficiently oppreſſive, the officers of the revenue at Edinburgh declared, by a very aſtoniſhing conſtruction of the act, that, if they ſailed before the 22d of June, or 1st of October, they ſhould forfeit all title to the bounty, for that the words *on* OR *before* muſt be underſtood to mean *on* AND NOT *before* *. The owners of the buſſes, after having in vain remonſtrated with the commiſſioners upon the obvious meaning of the words, applied for redreſs to parliament, who, as the former act for the bounty was now expired, continued the ſame bounty of thirty ſhillings per tun for ſeven years more, to be computed from the 22d of October 1778, and left it to the fiſhers to be at the rendezvous at any time between the 1st of Auguſt and the 1st of October. To the former places of rendezvous there were now alſo added Stornoway in the iſland of Lewis, and Stranrawer in the ſouth-weſt corner of Scotland †. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

An embargo had been laid in the year 1776 on the exportation of ſalted proviſions from Ireland, in the apprehenſion of the French furniſhing themſelves with a ſtock of Iriſh proviſions for victualing their fleets in the impending war; and it was ſtill in force. The French fleets, however, were not diſappointed of proviſions. Neither did the French Weſt-India iſlands ſuffer any inconvenience from the want of Iriſh proviſions, the American market being open to them. But it was a grievous, and a ruinous, diſappointment to the Iriſh to have their ſtores filled with beef, pork, butter, &c. which were periſhing on their hands. Their diſcontent was almoſt converted into indignation by a belief, which prevailed very generally among them, that the meaſure did not originate from the profeſſed motive, but from a deſign of giving enormous lucrative contracts to miniſterial favourites. Neither was the

750 men, and a population of above 7,000 inhabitants in the year 1777. But that increaſe is a ſmall object, in point of national utility, when compared with the increaſe of ſeamen produced by the bounty, it being calculated, that two thirds of the ſeamen who man the ſhipping of the Clyde, beſides a conſiderable proportion of thoſe in the veſſels belonging to Liverpool, Briſtol, and even London, and great numbers in the navy, have been bred in that fiſhery.

* Though I have myſelf ſeen, and alſo ſuffered by, as groſs perverſions of law, yet I think it neceſſary to ſupport my account, of what may ſeem improbable, by ſaying, that this ſtrange miſconſtruction is poſitively aſſerted in the printed *Memorial of the adventurers of the Britiſh white herring fiſhery*, whence it is extracted by that zealous friend of the fiſheries, Mr. John Knox, whoſe *View of the Britiſh empire* may be conſulted by the reader, who wiſhes to ſee a fuller account of the nature of the fiſheries, and the hardſhips that prevent their ſucceſs, than my bounds will admit of.

† But experience has proved, that even theſe relaxed reſtrictions are incompatible with the ſucceſs of the fiſhery, which without any limitation of time or place, ſhould be free to follow the ſholes of the herrings, which, as Mr. Knox has well obſerved, *pay no regard to acts of parliament*, and are, perhaps more irregular on the weſt coaſt, than in any other place, owing, apparantly, to the changes of winds, currents, &c. in a ſea ſo remarkably crowded with iſlands.

distress likely to be short or transient. The northern parts of Germany, and also the neighbouring countries, were already attempting to avail themselves of the opportunity thrown into their hands, and of their low prices of cattle and labour, so as to get possession of the provision trade: but, though they made great efforts, and spared no expense in obtaining curers and salt proper for the business, the cargoes they sent to France were found to stand in no degree of competition with the Irish provisions. The Irish, however, could not fail to be much alarmed, when they saw the main staple of the trade of the greatest part of their country * in danger of being annihilated. Nor was the condition of the northern part of the island, the seat of the linen manufacture, much better, the exportation of that article having been greatly reduced by the war. In addition to these grievances, many of their vessels were taken by the enemy, the loss of which, though not of so great a value as those taken from Britain, fell heavier upon a country possessed of less capital. These derangements of the commerce of Ireland were attended by their never-failing consequences, a stagnation of credit, and the dismission of many thousands of workmen, who, with their families, were reduced to a starving condition. Though the charity of the higher ranks was so very liberally exerted on this occasion, that, it is said, twenty thousand poor people were dayly fed in the one city of Dublin, yet that was only an alleviation, which could not possibly be permanent, and the poor people were still unhappy: for it is not gratis food, but a capacity to buy their own food by means of sufficient employment, that can give substantial relief to the labouring part of the community, and make them feel themselves comfortable and happy.

It was represented in parliament, that, if the grievances of Ireland should not be speedily redressed, that country would infallibly be depopulated; that the people, actuated by the impulse of the first law of nature, would emigrate to America, where their countrymen already formed a principal part of the armies now combating against the mother country; and that, when that event should take place, the exports of Great Britain must be abridged by considerably more than two millions a-year, besides the loss to be sustained by the failure of Irish rents spent in England, and the drains by pensions, sinecure places, lawsuits, and journies of business and pleasure.

The clamour, which had last year been so violent against admitting the Irish to a participation of commercial privileges, had now in a great measure subsided. But still there were some petitions presented

* The magnitude of the Irish provision trade may be judged of from the duty of one penny per head on all cattle entering the gates of Cork amounting to £600 yearly, whence the number appears to be 144,000. [*Lord Sheffield's Observations on Ireland, p.* 95, *ed.* 1785.] Cork, to be sure, is the chief seat of the provision trade; but there are several other towns, which do a vast deal in it.

againſt it, and particularly from Glaſgow and Mancheſter. The friends of Ireland in the Britiſh parliament at firſt propoſed a free and general exportation of all kinds of goods, except the woollen manufacture, 'that article being reckoned too ſacred to be *yet* meddled with;' but they found it neceſſary to contract their views, and they only demanded permiſſion to carry ſugars from the Weſt-Indies directly to Ireland. But the miniſter, who had hitherto kept himſelf neutral, ſuddenly declaring himſelf againſt the motion, the degree of relief granted to Ireland fell greatly ſhort of what was generally expected. The three following acts may be conſidered as favourable to that country.

April 1st—The bounties allowed by former acts on the exportation of Britiſh and Iriſh linens, the property of perſons reſiding in Great Britain or the American colonies, were continued to the 24th of June 1786; and perſons reſiding in Ireland were now entitled to receive the bounty on Iriſh linens exported from Great Britain, though their property at the time of exportation. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

May 18th—The act of 12 Car. II, prohibiting the culture of tobacco in England and Ireland (enacted for the encouragement of the culture in America) was now repealed with reſpect to Ireland, 'as it is of the 'greateſt importance to the ſtrength and ſecurity of theſe kingdoms, 'that every attention and encouragement ſhould be given to ſuch of 'the produce and manufactures of the kingdom of Ireland, as do not 'materially interfere with the commercial intereſt of Great Britain.' But the tobacco, produced in Ireland, was allowed to be exported only to Great Britain, and in caſks of not leſs than 450 pounds, under the ſame duties and regulations as American tobacco. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 35.]

As 'a means of introducing trade, manufactures, and induſtry, in Ireland, the following bounties were granted on the importation of hemp, the growth of that kingdom, viz.

from 24th June 1779 to 24 June 1786	-	£8	ſterling per tun:
thence to - - 24 June 1793	-	7	
and thence to - 24 June 1800	-	6	

and the importers were obliged to make an offer of all ſuch hemp to the commiſſioners of the navy, and not to ſell it to any other perſon till twenty days after making ſuch offer. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

But the Iriſh do not ſeem to have felt themſelves very much gratified by theſe acts, eſpecially with ſuch clogs annexed to them: and they ſoon after renewed their demands more ſtrenuouſly than ever.

French wines, as well as other foreign wines, were allowed to draw back the whole duty on being exported to any of the Britiſh colonies in America, or to the Eaſt-Indies. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 41.]

June 1st—As doubts had been entertained, whether goods, manufactured in foreign parts of Europe from raw materials, the produce of Aſia, Africa, or America, might not be imported into Britain, it was

now declared, that no ſuch goods could by any means be imported, except the oils of cloves, cinnamon, mace, and nutmeg. [19 *Geo. III. c.* 48.]

The pilchard fiſhery having of late been ſo abundant *, that the demand in the foreign markets was inſufficient to take off the quantity prepared for exportation, it became an object of conſequence to increaſe the home conſumpt. For this purpoſe the duty on ſalt uſed in curing pilchards was entirely taken off; and inſtead of it a duty of 5*s*2½ was laid on every barrel containing 50 gallons of cured pilchards to be conſumed at home. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 52.]

The duties payable on the exportation from Great Britain of cotton wool, the growth of the Britiſh colonies, were taken off. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 53.]

June 14th—The Eaſt-India company having now diſcharged their debt of £1,400,000 due to the public, and reduced their bond debt to, or under, £1,500,000, the public became intitled to a participation of the territorial acquiſitions and revenues lately obtained in India. They were, however, continued entire to the company by parliament till the 5th of April 1780, they being reſtricted from making any dividends above *eight per cent* during that time. The company were moreover directed to preſent a ſtate of their affairs every half year to the lords of the treaſury; and they were prohibited from accepting bills from India for above £300,000, excluſive of certificates for £8,000 each to the commanders of their ſhips, without the conſent of the lords of the treaſury. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 61.]

In conſequence of the great increaſe of ſmuggling, and of the petitions preſented to parliament by the dealers in tea, ſpirits, &c. of London and many other places, it was enacted, that all ſpiritous liquor, imported from any part of Europe in any caſk or veſſel containing leſs than 60 gallons, (except an allowance of two gallons each for the ſeamen) ſhould be forfeited, and alſo the veſſel importing it, of whatever burthen ſhe ſhould be. All veſſels, not of above 200 tuns burthen, found hovering within two leagues of the coaſt, and having onboard tea, brandy, &c. were made liable to forfeiture. The commanders of veſſels, not being Eaſt-India ſhips, having onboard 100 pounds of tea, or more than 100 gallons of foreign ſpirits in caſks holding under 60 gallons, over the allowance of two gallons for each ſeaman, were made liable to a penalty of £300. Foreign thread lace was required to be ſealed at each end of the piece by a cuſtom-houſe officer, and all fo-

* So wonderfully great are the ſwarms of pilchards, that the capture of one day is frequently a prodigious great object. In St. Ive's bay as many were taken at once on the 5th of October 1767, as filled *ſeven thouſand hogſheads*, each of which was eſtimated to contain 35,000 fiſh, which brings the whole of the fiſh taken at once to the aſtoniſhing number of 245,000,000

reign lace, not having ſuch ſeals, is liable to forfeiture. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 69.]

Among the various articles of the public expenditure of this year, the only one to be noted here is a grant of £5,000 to Meſſieurs Berkenhout and Clark of Leeds for diſcovering to the public their improvement in dying. [19 *Geo. III, c.* 71.]

Several acts were paſſed, as uſual, for draining fen lands, and for making and improving canals and roads, &c.

March 3d—The commander of a ſlaving veſſel from Liverpool was proſecuted by the African committee, as a warning to their other commanders, and fined £500, for having ſold a free negro, whom he had hired as a ſailor, for a ſlave in the year 1774, and who by the exertions of his friends in Africa had been redeemed from ſlavery in Jamaica, and now appeared in court againſt his kidnapper.

On the 16th of June the marquis de Almadovar, ambaſſador from Spain, delivered to Lord Weymouth, one of the ſecretaries of ſtate, a declaration of war againſt Britain by his ſovereign, who, after ſome heſitation, was now prevailed upon to join with France and America in their efforts to humble the power, and ruin the commerce, as well as diſmember the empire, of Great Britain. The marquis at the ſame time informed Lord Weymouth, that he had orders to return immediately to Spain.

The three-per-cent conſolidated funds, which are uſually conſidered as the ſtandard for the value of all the others, and which had been at $65\frac{1}{4}$ in April, immediately ſunk to 60, though the real value, as the dividend wanted but a few days of being due, was now about one half per cent more than in April. Such was the conſequence of the commencement of the Spaniſh war upon the funds, or ſtocks, as they are more generally, though leſs properly, called.

As an inſtance of the greatneſs and promptitude of the mercantile maritime force of this country, when it is thought expedient to turn it aſide from the purpoſes of commerce to thoſe of warfare, I ſhall here obſerve, that the one port of Liverpool, between the 26th of Auguſt 1778 and the 17th of April 1779 fitted out no leſs than 120 privateers, meaſuring 30,787 tuns, and carrying 1,986 guns and 8,754 men, moſt of which were ſhips of from 14 to 20 guns, though ſome of them carried even 30, and a few only 10 or 12 guns. It is worthy of remark, that the fleet, which England oppoſed to the *invincible armada* of Spain in the year 1588, and which excited the aſtoniſhment of Europe, though it carried almoſt twice as many men, meaſured (or was computed at) but 1,198 tuns more than this fleet of Liverpool privateers *; the number

* For this accurate account of the Liverpool privateers I am indebted to the induſtrious reſearch of Mr. Chalmers. [*Eſtimate of the Strength of Great Britain, p.* 40, *ed.* 1794.]

of which, we may believe was ſoon conſiderably augmented, if we conſider how popular a Spaniſh war is at all times with our ſeamen, and how eaſily ſhips fitted for the ſlave trade can be converted into ſhips of war.

The homeward-bound Weſt-India ſhips were aſſembled about the middle of June at S^t. Chriſtophers in order to ſail thence under convoy for England. But Admiral Byron, the commander of the Britiſh fleet in the Weſt-Indies, conſidering how great a force the French then had in thoſe ſeas, and that another French fleet was alſo upon the way from Europe, concluded that it would be extremely dangerous to detach a part of his fleet to convoy the trade home, as it would be in the power of the French admiral to ſend off a force ſufficient to overtake the Weſt-India fleet, or intercept the ſhips of war on their return from eſcorting them, and alſo to overpower that part of his fleet which he ſhould retain, as there was no port in the Weſt-Indies capable of protecting them againſt a force ſo far ſuperior, and he therefor determined to convoy the merchant ſhips a conſiderable part of the way with his whole fleet. But, as no human prudence can at once guard againſt every diſaſter, it appeared, that the ſafety of this very valuable fleet of merchant ſhips was purchaſed at the expence of expoſing our Weſt-India ſettlements to the enemy; and two valuable iſlands were immediately loſt.

That part of the iſland of S^t. Vincents, occupied by the Britiſh ſettlers, at this time contained 61 ſugar plantations; and it had 500 acres in coffee, 200 in cacao, 400 in cotton, 50 in indigo, and 500 in tobacco, beſides grounds for raiſing yams, plantains, and other articles of proviſion. About one third of the iſland was now acknowleged to belong to the Caribs, or Charaibes, the indigenous proprietors of the whole. But many unwarrantable attempts were ſaid to have been made by ſome of the planters to expell thoſe people from their poſſeſſions, which in the year 1772 brought on a petty ſanguinary war (to the great diſcontent of the officers and ſoldiers employed in it, who execrated it as a diſgrace to their profeſſion) which was terminated by an inſincere peace in February 1773. It was, perhaps, owing to the reſentment ſtill felt by the natives for this invaſion of their property, that the iſland, though garriſoned by ſeven companies of regular troops, now fell, an unreſiſting prey, to ſo ſmall a force as 450 men from Martinique, led by a lieutenant of the French navy; as the Caribs, who immediately joined the French, were believed by ſome to have invited the attack * (June 19^th). The French officer granted liberal terms of capitulation, modeled upon thoſe of the marquis de Bouillé on the ſurrender of Dominica.

The comte d'Eſtaing, the French admiral, being reinforced by the arrival of the fleet expected from France, now ſaw himſelf the unrivaled

* It ought, however, to be remembered, that the French were their antient friends, with whom they had formerly had much intercourſe, and whoſe language many of them had learned.

master of the West-India seas: and, indeed, the fate of the islands seemed to be in his hand. His first object was Grenada, which he attacked with no less than twenty-five ships of the line and ten frigates, together with 5,000 soldiers. To that vast force the island could only oppose 90 soldiers, 300 militia men, and 150 seamen drawn from the merchant ships. But this handful of men acted the very reverse of the conduct of the people of S^t. Vincents, and, notwithstanding the enormous superiority of the enemy, made a brave defence. Their bravery was unavailing, and Lord Macartney, the governor, was obliged to surrender to the irresistible power of the enemy (July 2^d).

Grenada at this time contained 106 sugar plantations, worked by 18 293 negroes, from which in the year 1776 there were exported

14,012,157 pounds of muscavado
9,273,607 pounds of clayed } 23,285,764 pounds of sugar,
and 818,700 gallons of rum.

The other articles of produce exported that year, were

1,827,166 pounds of coffee,
457,719 pounds of cacao, or chocolate nuts,
91,943 pounds of cotton,
27,638 pounds of indigo,

and some smaller articles, the value of the whole year's exports at the ports of shipping being estimated at £600,000, exclusive of any charges. The number of white people, which in the year 1771 was above 1,600, had decreased in 1777 to 1,300, and the negro slaves were in all about 35,000; besides whom there were free people of colour to the number of, probably, about 1,000 *.

No attack was made upon any of the other islands at this time. D'Estaing, after seeing the French homeward-bound merchant ships clear of the greatest danger, left the West-Indies, and went with the most of his ships to North America, where he accomplished nothing worthy of his great force; and soon after he abandoned his American allies, and went home to France, the island of Grenada being in fact the only conquest achieved by so mighty an armament.

July 15^th—In compliance with a message from the king, the lords of trade directed that the sum of £13,000, granted by parliament for supporting the settlements on the coast of Africa, should be invested in supplies suitable for the service of the year 1780; which, on their arrival in Africa, should be appropriated to defray all charges incurred after the 1^st of January 1780, including the salaries of the several officers, &c. for that year: but that no part of it should be expended in satisfying any debts incurred, or alleged to be incurred, previous to

* The crops and population of the lesser dependent islands, called Grenadines, are included in this statement.

that period. And they recommended the appointment of an agent, or agents, to be reſident on the coaſt in order to ſuperintend and controul the expenditure of the public ſupplies.

July—I have already given an account of the commencement and progreſs of the great canal between the Forth and the Clyde till the year 1775, when the ſubſcribers, having expended all the funds they were enabled by parliament to raiſe, were obliged to deſiſt *. A memorial from the convention of the Royal burghs of Scotland was now preſented, by their agent Mr. George Chalmers merchant in Edinburgh, to the lords of trade, as the guardians of the trade of the empire, wherein, after ſtating that the company, who had ſubſcribed for carrying on the canal between the Forth and the Clyde, had carried it as far as Glaſgow, ſo that veſſels fit to navigate the open ſeas could now proceed from any part of the eaſt ſide of Britain to that city, they repreſented, that in ſo doing they had not only exhauſted the whole of their ſubſcription funds, but alſo incurred a heavy debt; that for four years paſt 'this great national work, the nobleſt and moſt uſeful that ever 'was undertaken in any country, in reſpect that other inland naviga-'tions are only for carrying lighters (ſo far as the memorialiſts know †) 'but this is alſo for veſſels fit to navigate in any open ſea,' had been entirely at a ſtand; and that the tolls now taken on the canal were found to be too heavy for bulky goods of ſmall value.

There was given in to the board at the ſame time a recommendation by a great number of noblemen and gentlemen of Great Britain and Ireland, wherein they ſubmit to the miniſtry the propriety of government taking up this great object, in which they aſſert that England and Ireland are fully as much (and probably even more) intereſted as Scotland; as, if it were completed from ſea to ſea, it would ſhorten much of the coaſting, and part of the foreign, navigation, which in the winter is impracticable, and in time of war extremely hazardous in all ſeaſons, whereby much time, and great expenſe and loſs, may be avoided, to the great advantage of the general commerce of the three kingdoms. They add that an aid of £70,000 from the public would complete the work in about two years, and would alſo enable the proprietors to reduce the tolls on bulky goods; and that the three kingdoms would be more than compenſated in one year of war for the whole ſum now required ‡.

Auguſt—The combined fleets of France and Spain, conſiſting of above ſixty ſhips of the line, with a proportionable attendance of frigates, being, perhaps, the moſt powerful aſſemblage of warlike ſhips

* See above, p. 477.

† The Glouceſter canal, which carries ſhips of 300 tuns, was not begun till the year 1793.

‡ It was in the year 1784 that this great object, ſo intereſting to the Britiſh empire (for the benefits of this canal are not local, like thoſe of others) was accompliſhed by the patriotic attention of Mr. Dundas.

ever collected in one fleet, rode masters of the Channel for a few days: but they made no attempt upon the land, and did scarcely any harm upon the water, being obliged by the very sickly condition of their seamen to return almost immediately into port. Most providentially a very valuable fleet of about two hundred vessels from Jamaica got safe home a few days before the Channel was covered by the formidable armada of the enemy, and eight homeward-bound East-India ships with rich cargoes, got intelligence of the danger, and made for Limerick in Ireland, where they arrived safe.

The East-India company, with a liberality of patriotism worthy of the greatest commercial company that ever existed, and at a time too, when they had scarcely emerged from very great embarrassments in their own concerns, gave a large bounty for raising 6,000 seamen for the public service; and they moreover made a noble addition to the navy of three complete ships of 74 guns each, which were called by the appropriate names of *Bombay-castle*, *Carnatic*, and *Ganges*. Their example was followed by several other communities, both in raising men and building ships, according to their abilities.

September—The Spanish governor of Louisiana, having been very early apprized of the commencement of hostilities, immediately seized an armed sloop and some small vessels carrying troops and provisions to the British posts on the River Mississippi, after which he found it an easy matter, with a very superior force, to compell their small garrisons to surrender prisoners of war.

This acquisition of territory, no advantage to a nation already possessing more lands than people, was more than balanced by the value of a number of very rich Spanish vessels, which fell into the hands of some English privateers; among which may be noted, as the most considerable, a Spanish ship of war from Manila to Cadiz, taken by the Amazon of Liverpool and the Ranger of Bristol, and supposed the richest prize ever taken since Anson's capture of the galleon in the South sea; the Nuestra Señora de Piedad of 600 tuns, and carrying 16 guns and 70 men, taken by the Dart of Dartmouth of less than 200 tuns, and carrying 14 guns and 60 men, with a cargo consisting of goods to the value of about £80,000, besides gold and silver in ingots to a great amount, and coined money to the amount of 181,066 dollars: also another ship, still larger, from the Havannah to Cadiz, valued at £200,000, taken by the Antigallican.

September 23[d]—The general assembly of Pennsylvania by a solemn act deprived the family of Penn of the property of the soil of that province, and placed it, with certain restrictions, under their own direction, as they thought the possession of such a vast property now inconsistent with the safety of the commonwealth. At the same time they ordained a compensation of £130,000 sterling to be paid to the proprietors, by installments of

not leſs than £15,000, nor more than £20,000, a-year, to commence at the end of one year after the concluſion of the war. Thus was a landed eſtate (I might almoſt ſay a territorial ſovereignty) which, conſidering the extent and rapidly increaſing value of it, was perhaps the moſt valuable ever poſſeſſed by any ſubject, transferred, after a poſſeſſion of above ninety-nine years, from a private family to be the property of the ſtate *.

The relief afforded to the commerce of Ireland by the laſt ſeſſion of parliament was ſo far ſhort of the demands and expectations of that country, that the ſpirit of diſcontent was little or nothing abated. Meetings were held in Dublin, and afterwards in other places, at which, after branding the oppoſition to the complete emancipation of their commerce as not only illiberal and unjuſt, but alſo impolitic, they entered into reſolutions neither to import nor conſume any articles of Britiſh produce or manufacture of any kinds, which could be produced or manufactured in Ireland, till a more enlightened policy in Britain ſhould aboliſh the reſtraints on the trade and manufactures of Ireland.

While the affair was thus reſumed with increaſed ardour by the Iriſh and their friends in this country, the oppoſition to it became much fainter on the ſide of the Britiſh manufacturers: and in the meantime an unintentional combination of circumſtances gave a new acceſſion of force to the reſolutions and demands of the Iriſh, which could not very eaſily be reſiſted. A conſiderable part of the army ſtationed in Ireland had been drawn off to be employed in America; whereupon many noblemen, gentlemen, farmers, merchants, and traders, had formed themſelves into volunteer aſſociations for the defence of the country againſt invaſion; and their number ſoon increaſed to about 42,000 men, well armed and diſciplined, among whom there was no diſtinction of religion, whether proteſtant or catholic, and ſcarcely any diſtinction of perſons, men of title and fortune ſerving in the ranks along with their tenants and dependents. It was impoſſible that ſuch a body of men, deeply intereſted, as they were, in the proſperity of their country, ſhould not feel their own power and importance; and they reſolved, not only to repell foreign enemies, but alſo to aſſert their right at home, and to command that freedom in trade, which, they ſaid, had, as in the caſe of America, been denied to their humble ſolicitations. The matter was now become too ſerious to be trifled with; and the recent example of America convinced the adminiſtration and parliament of Great Britain, that no time was to be loſt in giving real and effectual ſatisfaction to ſo reſpectable and powerful a body of ſuppliants. The Britiſh parliament

* Beſides the compenſation allowed to them by their late tenants, or vaſſals, the family got an allowance of £4,000 a-year from the Britiſh revenue, which was ſecured by act of parliament, 30 *Geo. III.* c. 46.

accordingly preſented an addreſs to the king (May 11th), praying him to conſider the diſtreſſed condition of the loyal and well-deſerving people of Ireland, and to order ſuch information to be laid before them, as might enable them to promote the joint proſperity of his ſubjects in both kingdoms. But the ſeſſion was cloſed ſoon after without any thing being done in the affair; and the Iriſh, who apprehended, that they were trifled with, were in as bad humour as ever.

October 12th—Such was the ſituation of affairs, when the Iriſh parliament met, who immediately addreſſed the king with a declaration that nothing ſhort of a free trade could ſave Ireland from ruin: and then, in order to ſhow, that they were truely in earneſt, they paſſed the money bills for ſix months only.

November 25th—The Britiſh parliament met for the winter; and very ſoon after ſevere cenſures were thrown out in both houſes upon the miniſtry for endangering the loſs of Ireland, as they had already accompliſhed that of America, by delaying to grant what it would no longer be in their power to withhold, whereby they were now reduced to a neceſſity of yielding, as a matter of right, much more than would have been thankfully received as a favour, if granted with a good grace at a proper time. At laſt the miniſter was rouſed to take up the buſineſs in earneſt; and in his ſpeech upon the occaſion in the houſe of commons (December 13th) he gave the following hiſtorical retroſpect of the encroachments upon the commercial liberty of Ireland.

'Before the reſtoration the Iriſh enjoyed every commercial benefit 'and advantage in common with England. The commerce, import 'and export, was held equally by both kingdoms till the reign of 'Charles II. Even the act of navigation, the great foundation of our 'plantation laws, put England and Ireland upon exact terms of equal-'ity; nor was it till two years after, that the firſt commercial reſtriction 'was laid upon Ireland, and that not directly, but by a ſide-wind, and 'by deductive interpretation. When the act firſt paſſed, there was a 'general governing clauſe for giving bonds to perform the conditions 'of the act: but when the act was amended in the 15th of Charles the 'Second, the word *Ireland* was omitted; from whence a concluſion was 'drawn, that the acts of the two preceding parliaments, 12th, 13th, and '14th, of Charles II. were thereby repealed, though it was as clearly ex-'preſſed in thoſe acts, as it was poſſible for words to convey, that ſhips 'built in Ireland, navigated by the people thereof, were deemed Britiſh, 'and qualified to trade to and from the Britiſh plantations; and that 'ſhips built in Ireland, and navigated by his Majeſty's ſubjects of Ire-'land, were intitled to the ſame abatements and privileges, to which 'importers and exporters of goods in Britiſh-built ſhips were entitled. 'However, Ireland had been as much excluded from trading with the 'Britiſh colonies as France, Spain, or any other foreign nation, in the

'way of a direct export or import trade, excepting in a few trifling in-
'ſtances. Some of the reſtraints reſpecting Ireland in the reign of
'Charles II were ſuppoſed to have originated in a diſlike or jealouſy of
'the growing power of the then duke of Ormond, who, from his great
'eſtate and poſſeſſions in Ireland, was ſuppoſed to have a perſonal in-
'tereſt in the proſperity of that kingdom. So far, indeed, was this
'ſpirit carried, whether from perſonal enmity to the duke of Ormond,
'from narrow prejudices, or a blind policy, that the parliament of Eng-
'land paſſed a law to prohibit the importation of Iriſh lean cattle *.'

The miniſter proceeding in his hiſtorical narrative, obſerved, that in the year 1692 † the parliament of England recommended to the king a kind of compact between the two kingdoms, whereby England ſhould excluſively enjoy the woollen manufacture, and Ireland ſhould excluſively enjoy that of linen. Ireland accepted the terms, and in conſequence of the compact abſtained from the woollen manufacture, and even, by a temporary act, laid a duty equal to a prohibition on the exportation of wool and all kinds of woollen goods ‡. England however did not abſtain from the linen manufacture, but carried it on to fully as great an

* So the proſperity of a great nation was apparently the ſport of private reſentment, or, what is falſely called, politics. The law againſt importing lean cattle muſt, however, have been a real benefit to the Iriſh, unleſs the enemies of Ormond could at the ſame time have deprived them of their excellent paſtures for feeding and fattening their cattle, and of ſalt for curing the fleſh of them. It turned out in fact alſo a benefit in another way, as it rouſed their attention to other articles of commerce; for, as we are told by the biographer of Ormond,

'The Iriſh till then had no commerce but with 'this kingdom, and ſcarce entertained a thought of 'trafficking with other countries. They ſupplied 'us with their native commodities, which made 'work cheap, and carried off our artificial ones to 'a value which exceeded that of their own; ſo that 'they were rather impoveriſhed than improved by 'the traffick. The Engliſh were undoubtedly the 'gainers by this mutual trade, from which they 'now ſo wantonly cut themſelves off by forbidding 'the principal part of it, and rendering the reſt im-'practicable. They ſoon felt the conſequence of 'this unhappy ſtep: the Iriſh, forced by their ne-'ceſſities to be induſtrious, ſet themſelves to im-'prove their own manufactures, and carried their 'trade to foreign parts, from whence they brought 'thoſe commodities which they uſed to take from 'England. In this country the price of meat roſe 'conſiderably as ſoon as the act paſſed, even before 'the end of this ſeſſion of parliament (which broke 'up on Feb. 9) the price of labour and rate of 'wages were thereby enhanced; and the wool of 'Ireland, which never before had any vent but in 'England, being now carried abroad, foreigners 'were thereby enabled to ſet up woollen manufac-'tures, and by the cheapneſs of labour in their 'country, underſell us in that moſt beneficial 'branch of our commerce. The Engliſh have 'ſince ſufficiently felt the miſchiefs of this proceed-'ing; which were in truth obvious enough to be 'foreſeen at that time by a man of common under-'ſtanding, but it will puzzle the wiſeſt to find a 'remedy to remove them, now they have actually 'happened. It would be well, if any experience 'could make them wiſer, and diſpoſe them to treat 'Ireland better.' [*Carte's Life of Ormonde, V. ii, p.* 337. See alſo the following pages for the commencement and progreſs of ſome of the manufactures of Ireland.—And ſee *Lord Sheffield's Obſervations on the trade of Ireland, p.* 149, *third ed.*]

† The date ought to be 1698.

‡ The Iriſh parliament impoſed an *additional* duty of 20 per cent ad valorem on the exportation of broad cloths, and 10 per cent on ſerges, baize, kerſeys, and other new drapery, frizes only excepted (and to them alſo it was afterwards extended) which was in effect a prohibition. The conſequences were, that the woollen manufacture of Ireland for exportation was entirely deſtroyed; ſeveral thouſand manufacturers left the kingdom; ſome of the ſouthern and weſtern diſtricts were almoſt depopulated; and the whole kingdom was reduced to the utmoſt poverty and diſtreſs. [*Journals of the Iriſh houſe of commons*, 1772, *p.* 400, *and* 1774, *p.* 362.] Such were the fruits of baniſhing a natural manufacture of native materials, and forcibly introducing a manufacture from foreign materials, the ſupply of which muſt depend upon the pleaſure of rival, or perhaps hoſtile, nations.

extent as Ireland, and moreover, without conſulting the parliament of Ireland, paſſed an act [10, 11 Will. III] making the heavy duties on the exportation of Iriſh wool, &c. perpetual; by which, and ſome others that followed it, the woollen trade of Ireland was annihilated *. He ſtated the exports from Britain to Ireland upon an average of ſix years, 1766-1772, at ſomewhat above two millions annually, and in the ſucceeding ſix years, extending to 1778, about as much more, whereof nearly one half was Britiſh manufacture or produce, and the remainder certified articles, whereof this country was the medium of conveyance. Of theſe exports the woollen goods amounted only to about £200,000 a-year; ſo that it would be very bad policy to riſk an export trade of native produce to the amount of a million for the ſake of an export of woollens to the amount of £200,000 †. He obſerved, that the woollen trade of Ireland, though freed from all the reſtraints it had hitherto been ſhackled with, muſt long continue in ſuch a ſtate of infancy, as would render it impoſſible for that country to compete with England in foreign markets, ſeeing that now, notwithſtanding the low rate of wages in Ireland, Engliſh fine cloths, though loaded with the various

* 'The woollen manufacturers of Ireland, who, 'or their anceſtors, came chiefly from England, 'now emigrated from Ireland; certainly, however, 'in ſmaller numbers than were at the time repre-'ſented. In their reſentment and neceſſities many 'of the proteſtants moved to Germany, many of 'the Roman catholics to Spain, and others of each 'deſcription to France, where they received en-'couragement, and ſhewed the way how our wool 'might be ſmuggled from both iſlands. The 'foundations of manufactures were laid, or they 'were promoted, highly to the prejudice of Eng-'land; and thus ſome return was made for the 'manufactures eſtabliſhed in the Britiſh dominions 'by the equally wiſe [revocation of the] edict of 'Nantz.' [*Lord Sheffield's Obſervations on the trade of Ireland, p.* 151 *ed.* 1785.]

† The amount of the trade between Great Britain and Ireland, according to the Britiſh cuſtom-houſe accounts, may be ſeen in the annual accounts of imports and exports, by which Britain appears to draw almoſt every year a very conſiderable balance from Ireland. But it is neceſſary to obſerve, that the linens, which generally conſtitute above one half of the whole imports from Ireland, are therein rated at 8*d* a yard, rather leſs than one half of their true average value, which muſt neceſſarily produce an error, or falſification, of very great magnitude. In the Iriſh cuſtom-houſe accounts the linens are rated from 15*d* to 17*d*, which, though ſtill under the truth, turns the balance in favour of Ireland to a very conſiderable amount. The following is the Iriſh account of the trade with Great Britain in moſt of the years referred to by Lord North.

	Ireland exported to Great Britain;			Ireland imported from Great Britain;		
		whereof in linens,	and in linen yarn.		whereof in woollen goods.	
1769	£2,266,151			£1,776,996		
1770	2,408,838			1,878,596		
1771	2,514,038			1,806,732		
1772	2,405,507			1,586,623		
1773	2,178,664			1,679,212		
1774	2,117,695	£1,237,121	£175,165	1,711,174	average of five years	£270,399
1775	2,379,858	1,458,543	183,592	1,739,543		
1776	2,551,211	1,435,110	216,915	1,875,525		
1777	2,552,296	1,387,584	178,190	2,233,192		358,408
1778	2,718,145	1,542,748	168,653	2,076,460		

The year 1777 is noted for the uncommonly great amount of the importation of Britiſh goods, which in conſequence of non-importation agreements and other circumſtances, fell off very much in the enſuing years. [*Lord Sheffield's Obſervations, pp.* 8, 160, 276, 284.]

charges of land and ſea carriage, inſurance, factorage, &c. were ſold cheaper than thoſe of their own manufacture. He obſerved, that the linen manufacture of Ireland, however proſperous it might appear, was ſtill capable of great improvement; and he oppoſed the idea of aboliſhing the bounty on Iriſh linens, becauſe it appeared, that the Britiſh bounty was a great encouragement to the Iriſh linen manufacture, and the amount of it was trifling, being little above £13,000 in the higheſt years.

Previous to an act of 19th George II Ireland imported glaſs from other countries, and alſo manufactured ſome of the coarſer kinds. That act, which prohibited the Iriſh from importing glaſs from any country but Britain, and grievouſly oppreſſed the manufacture of glaſs in Ireland, ought to be repealed.——The propoſition of allowing Ireland a free trade to the colonies, which had been ſettled, and reared to their preſent ſtate by Great Britain only, could upon no account be claimed as a matter of right, but muſt be received as a mere favour *: and the miniſter declared it as his opinion, that ſuch a permiſſion, accompanied by a ſtipulation for equalizing duties upon imports and exports, would be no loſs, but an advantage, to Britain, as it would convince the Iriſh of our ſincere deſire to render them wealthy and happy: and they, when reſtored to their former good humour, and united to us by friendſhip and intereſt, would be again, as they have heretofore been, the beſt cuſtomers of this country.

December 23d—In purſuance of this manifeſtation of liberality, the acts of 11th Will. III, and the 19th Geo. II, which prohibited the Iriſh from exporting their own woollen manufactures and glaſs ware, were repealed. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 6.]

Alſo, the many acts, by which the commerce of Ireland was fettered, were ſo far repealed, that all goods, which may be legally imported from the Britiſh ſettlements in America and on the coaſt of Africa to Great Britain, may in like manner be imported directly from thoſe ſettlements to Ireland. And all ſuch goods, as may be legally exported from Britain to the Britiſh ſettlements in America or Africa, may in like manner be exported from Ireland to the ſame places, on condition that duties, equal to thoſe paid in Britiſh ports, be impoſed by the Iriſh parliament on the imports and exports of Ireland †. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 10.]

At the ſame time the permiſſion to import Italian organzined ſilk was further continued till the 25th of March 1781. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 4.]

* Might not the Iriſh allege, that they alſo could have planted colonies in the weſtern world, as well as ſend out their emigrants to ſtrengthen the armies of every Roman-catholic country in Europe? As it is, the iſland of Montſerrat is entirely occupied by planters of Iriſh origin, the deſcendents of the original ſettlers; and in Jamaica a great proportion of the planters, probably above a third part of the whole, are Iriſh, or of Iriſh origin.

† Some further relaxations of the reſtraints on the trade of Ireland were enacted in the enſuing ſpring, as will be related in due time.

The Britiſh ſettlers on the Muſquito ſhore having, by a memorial to the lords of the treaſury in March 1779, requeſted permiſſion to import ſugar and rum produced on their plantations without being ſubjected to the duties payable upon foreign produce; and the law, which ſubjected them to thoſe duties, having been intended merely to guard againſt foreign ſugars being ſmuggled from the Britiſh-American provinces lying north of the Gulf of Mexico, it was thought juſt and proper that the produce of the Muſquito ſhore ſhould be exempted from the operation of that law: and therefor

The rigour of the act 18 Geo. III, c. 58 was ſoftened, and ſugar actually the growth of any of the Britiſh ſugar colonies, though imported into Britain from other Britiſh colonies, was admitted to entry without being charged with a foreign duty. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 7.]

The northern ports were now indulged in building a few ſhips for the navy. Several ſhips of war were built in the River Were. The Syren, a frigate of 32 guns, built at Newcaſtle, and the Fury, a ſhip of 16 guns, built at Leith, were launched in the courſe of this year. The Fury was, I believe, the firſt ſhip for the navy built in Scotland ſince the acceſſion of James VI to the crown of England.

The invention of extracting tar from coals may be conſidered as a ſmall mite of alleviation of the multiplied calamities flowing from the American war. The failure of the ſupply of tar from America put the proprietors of a manufacture of lamp-black at Briſtol upon making experiments on the oil extracted from pit-coals in their works; and they found, that, by different degrees of boiling, it could be brought to the conſiſtence of tar, and alſo of pitch. The tar, beſides being much cheaper, proved more efficacious in preſerving the bottoms of ſhips from the worm than vegetable tar. Moreover the coal, after the tar is extracted, becomes excellent coak, whereby a great ſaving is made in many manufactures, for which coal uſed to be charred on purpoſe, in which operation the valuable tar was totally loſt in ſmoke, as it is in a great meaſure in our common fires.——This invention has been greatly improved, ſo as to make the coal produce oil, volatile ſpirits, and varniſh, as well as tar, pitch, and coak, by the earl of Dundonald, a nobleman, who devotes his time, his fortune, and his great knowlege in chymiſtry, to advance the national proſperity, and improve the condition of the people in his neighbourhood.

Before the war flax-ſeed uſed to be a conſiderable article in the imports from America, eſpecially to Ireland. The annual quantity on an average of the years 1768, 1769, and 1770 was

to Great Britain - - -	12,436 buſhels
to Ireland - - - - - -	255,851
268,287 at 2/3 amount to -	£30,232 : 5 : 9

After the commencement of the war the Iriſh preſerved the ſeed of their own flax, which was found to anſwer ſo well as to render them more independent of foreign flax-ſeed than they had hitherto thought themſelves. Before the war England imported flax-ſeed from the continent of Europe, chiefly Holland and Ruſſia, the average quantity of which in the years 1772, 1773, and 1774, was above 102,000 cwt. value £239,869: and in the years 1777, 1778, and 1779, the flax-ſeed imported from thoſe countries continued the ſame, viz - - - £239,869 5 3
The quantity imported from them to Scotland in the
ſame years averaged - - - - - - 186,941 18 6

being above 4,000 tuns - - - - - £426,811 3 9
[*Lord Sheffield's Obſervations on American commerce, p.* 116, *ed.* 1784.]

That branch of architectural engineering, which is appropriated to the accommodation of ſhipping, was carried to great perfection in Sweden by Mr. Tunberg, who conſtructed a grand baſin at Carlſcroon, containing twenty-four docks for the reception of ſhips, in any one of which they may lie either dry or afloat, as the buſineſs of the veſſels in each of them may require.

In the courſe of this year 1,651 Britiſh veſſels, 2,075 Dutch, and not one French one, paſſed the Sound. So completely was the French trade with the Baltic annihilated by the war, at leaſt as to the carriage, which was entirely transferred to the Dutch.

There were at this time no leſs than 1,104 empty houſes within the city of London, as appeared by the returns of the deputies of the ſeveral wards; and their annual rents were eſtimated at £26,375, which is ſurely rating them very low, being under £24 a houſe.

The following is the quantity of coals imported into London ſince the year 1772, when the importation, as already related, was ſo uncommonly great.

1773..624,781 chaldrons	1776..700,207	1779..587,895
1774..623,727	1777..694,437	
1775..672,785	1778..647,361	

The magnitude and importance of the cotton manufactures of Great Britain render every information which marks their progreſs intereſting. I have therefor extracted, from ſeveral official papers, laid before the houſe of commons at various times, the following conciſe account of the importation of the raw material in the under-mentioned years, during which the manufacture, compared with its preſent extenſion, may be ſaid to have been in its infancy.

There were imported into

	ENGLAND.			SCOTLAND.		
	Cotton of the British colonies *, pounds.	Cotton of foreign growth, pounds.	Total, pounds.	Cotton of the British colonies, pounds.	Cotton of foreign growth, pounds.	Total, pounds.
1768	3,294,297	836,504	4,130,801	114,916	259	115,175
1769	3,234,652	1,171,403	4,406,055	119,659	1,988	121,647
1770	2,838,816	773,600	3,572,416	106,042	420	106,462
1771	2,177,071	370,385	2,547,456	86,991	1,232	88,223
1772	3,103,400	2,204,012	5,307,412	106,883		106,883
1773	2,290,331	615,458	2,905,789	86,785	20,295	107,080
1774	3,084,758	2,622,523	5,707,281	77,692	79,880	157,572
1775	2,726,298	3,967,436	6,693,734	98,454		98,454
1776	3,325,010	2,891,237	6,216,247	113,850		113,850
1777	4,041,109	2,995,996	7,037,105	220,400	27,102	247,502
1778	4,814,430	1,726,681	6,541,111			
1779	3,917,332	372,154	4,289,486			

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	6,955	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	574,620	tuns;
and of Scotland	1,521	- - -	88,321	
Total	8,476		662,941	

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, and including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh		Foreign		Total	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	5,362	583,704	2,213	240,296	7,575	824,000
Outward -	6,832	642,981	1,306	149,040	8,138	792,021

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London £2,502,273 19 8
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh there was nothing remitted this year, the whole cuſtoms of Scotland being paid away in fiſhery bounties, drawbacks, &c.

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

36,300 pounds of gold, value	£1,696,117	10 o
and 82 pounds of ſilver,	254	4 o
	£1,696,371	14 o

* The inſpector general has claſſed St Croix, St Euſtathius, and St Thomas, along with the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands in this account.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1778 to Chriſtmas 1779 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Africa	£33,960 16 9		£159,217 19 7	
Canaries	2,091 15 7		17,494 7 6	
Denmark, &c.	73,171 13 5	£18,111 3 0	150,615 2 4	£6,269 18 6
East country	201,982 8 5		50,326 7 0	
East-India	716,323 9 10		703,191 14 4	
Flanders	524,413 10 7		1,041,721 4 4	
France	12,972 1 2		2,812 18 0	
Germany	552,684 19 2	12,357 3 0	1,263,515 7 2	32,036 7 7
Greenland	23,620 15 1	7,776 9 9	124 16 0	
Holland	517,170 17 4	131,016 8 3	1,250,015 13 9	85,476 7 0
Ireland	1,384,117 15 4	163,061 6 7	1,359,415 2 1	280,538 17 1
Mann	15,252 14 10	2,059 3 6	20,407 4 3	766 14 10
Italy	47,477 18 7		307,548 17 1	2,827 10 0
Madeira	3,031 5 2		18,719 1 11	
Poland		11,134 13 1		1,944 8 0
Portugal	285,334 3 10	10,411 6 5	647,813 19 9	1,745 4 9
Ruſſia	1,201,377 14 4	145,978 17 6	306,072 15 11	23,966 9 0
Pruſſia		8,072 4 3		60 0 0
Spain	220,748 5 3	3,369 4 1	599,765 17 0	7 0 0
Gibraltar				50 0 0
Straits	1,547 2 6		4,534 1 0	
Sweden	252,431 4 2	21,471 13 7	108,403 4 7	3,027 5 9
Turkey	1,474 12 6		229 19 0	
Venice	78,532 3 2		29,465 14 11	
Guernſey, &c.	76,799 18 4	1,304 8 5	54,117 13 11	351 18 10
America in general		38,952 10 1		235,875 13 11
Hudſon's bay	5,116 15 7		5,447 6 0	
Newfoundland	65,725 10 8		87,947 8 11	
Cape Breton			22 8 0	
Quebec	61,924 12 7		521,240 6 10	
Nova-Scotia	1,956 8 2		227,181 12 2	
New-England	807 10 10			
New-York	14,861 19 6		349,712 9 2	
Pennſylvania	569 13 9			
Carolina	3,732 8 9			
Georgia	607 7 1		85 4 2	
Florida	23,804 19 0		128,311 14 11	
West-Indies in general		199,695 16 5		162,329 6 0
Antigua	85,957 5 11		90,110 1 0	
Barbados	145,293 12 6		140,170 12 5	
Bermuda	9,292 2 10		27,463 6 8	
Grenada	317,965 1 7		42,368 8 10	
Jamaica	1,458,764 6 6		484,365 10 10	
Montſerrat	62,204 13 2		9,132 13 2	
Nevis	57,922 6 2		16,013 2 3	
New-Providence	1,256 6 8		682 18 1	
St. Croix			283 11 3	
St. Euſtathius	1,813 16 5		14,474 2 11	
St. Chriſtophers	320,639 11 9		118,747 6 4	
St. Lucia	18,839 12 1		14,210 10 9	
St. Vincents	103,399 8 4		6,228 19 8	
Tobago	45,562 6 7		10,867 8 8	
Tortola	44,879 7 10		44,135 0 6	
Bay of Honduras	10,690 1 6		2,066 19 11	
Muſquito ſhore	48 12 3		1,030 18 6	
Falkland's iſlands	3,400 0 0			
Southern fiſhery	3,267 10 0			
	9,006,740 13 4		10,437,729 1 4	
Prize goods	1,503,751 12 2		2,255,700 9 9	
Imp and exp. of England	10,660,492 5 6		12,693,429 11 1	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	774,772 7 11	774,772 7 11	837,273 1 3	837,273 1 3
Total, Great Britain	11,435,264 13 5		13,530,702 12 4	

1780—After a long ſeries of altercations with the Dutch by remonſtrances on both ſides, they ſtill inſiſting on their right, as a neutral nation, and more eſpecially in virtue of the marine treaty of the year 1674, to carry ſupplies for the French, and the Britiſh ſhips of war ſtill ſeizing their veſſels loaded with ſtores for France, wherever they found them, the Dutch determined to protect their navigation by an armed force, and ſent Admiral Byland with five ſhips of war to convoy a fleet of merchant ſhips. 1st January—Near Portland they were met by Commodore Fielding, who requeſted the admiral's permiſſion to ſend his boats to examine the merchant ſhips, which was refuſed. He notwithſtanding ſent his boats, which were fired upon by the Dutch, whereupon Commodore Fielding fired a ſhot ahead of the Dutch admiral, who immediately fired a broadſide. Commodore Fielding returned the compliment, and the Dutch admiral, without further conteſt, ſtruck his colours. All the merchant ſhips, that had naval ſtores onboard, were taken poſſeſſion of; and the commodore gave notice to the Dutch admiral, that he was at liberty to hoiſt his colours and proſecute his voyage. He hoiſted his colours, but inſiſted upon keeping by his convoy; and accordingly he attended the fleet into Spithead. The merchant ſhips, that were detained, were all condemned as legal prizes. The Dutch were now more incenſed than ever, and exclaimed, that, in defiance of treaties, their property was ſeized to a very large amount, and alſo their flag groſsly inſulted *; and they vehemently demanded immediate ſatisfaction in a tone that made it very evident, that Holland would ſoon be added to the confederacy againſt Great Britain. The Britiſh court, however, were ſo far from yielding any thing to their clamours, that they ſoon after iſſued a proclamation, whereby all foreign veſſels, found aſſiſting the enemy with warlike ſtores, were declared lawful prizes to thoſe who ſhould ſeize them (21st January).

The beginning of this year was diſtinguiſhed by the ſucceſſes of Admiral Rodney againſt the Spaniards. Having fallen in with a convoy of ſixteen ſhips from St. Sebaſtians, bound for Cadiz under the protection of ſeven ſhips of war from 64 to 10 guns, he took the whole of them, not one of the men of war or merchantmen eſcaping (8th January). Of the later, twelve were loaded with wheat and flour, three with naval ſtores, and one with tobacco. And ſoon after this important capture he engaged the Spaniſh fleet, conſiſting of eleven ſail of the line and two frigates, whereof he took ſix ſhips of the line (16th January). The reſt, except one ſhip of 70 guns, which blew up, made their eſcape.

* It was with a very bad grace that the Dutch pretended to vindicate their officiouſneſs in the ſervice of France upon the principle of unlimited freedom of commerce, while at the ſame time, with the moſt glaring partiality, they threatened to puniſh by ſevere penalties any one of their ſubjects, who ſhould uſe that freedom of commerce in ſupplying the garriſon of Gibraltar with proviſions.

The great force, which the French now had in the Weſt-Indies, could not fail to be very alarming to all who were intereſted in our remaining poſſeſſions in that part of the world. The planters and others concerned in the iſland of Jamaica, as being the moſt numerous and conſiderable body, therefor preſented a petition to the houſe of commons (10th February), and another to the houſe of lords (21st February), wherein they repreſented, that that iſland, one of the moſt valuable of all our foreign poſſeſſions, with the proſperity of which the intereſt of Great Britain is intimately and inſeparably connected, was totally deſtitute of defence, and owed its being now a Britiſh colony to the mere accident of the forces of the enemy being directed to another object: that the planters of Jamaica, conſidering the diſtreſſes brought upon them by the war, had gone far beyond their abilities in taxes and contributions paid both in Jamaica and in Britain, and alſo in very burthenſome perſonal ſervices. They complained of the neglect of their petitions by the miniſtry ever ſince the year 1773, and, having affirmed that they and their intereſts were worthy and deſerving of protection, they concluded by demanding it as their undoubted right *.

Every wellwiſher to the proſperity of the Britiſh empire will approve of my paying a tribute of reſpect to the memory of Mr. David Loch, merchant in Edinburgh and afterwards general inſpector of the fiſheries of Scotland, who finiſhed his uſeful life this year (February 21st). This real patriot, whoſe ruling paſſion was zeal for the welfare of his country, exerted himſelf ſtrongly in promoting the improvement of Scotland, and eſpecially the increaſe and improvement of the breed of ſheep, and the proſecution of the woollen manufacture, which very many natural advantages evidently point out as the proper ſtaple of Scotland. He inſiſted, that the extenſion and ſucceſs of the woollen manufacture in Scotland, inſtead of being, as ſome narrow-minded people ſuppoſe, injurious to England, would greatly promote the general welfare of the united kingdom, and be the ſureſt means of ſubduing the competition of the French and Dutch. He aſſerted 'that millions of additional ſheep may 'be raiſed without encroaching upon a ſingle acre of land capable of 'bearing corn, or rearing black cattle:' and his public-ſpirited advice produced a great augmentation in the breed of that valuable animal in Scotland, and particularly in the Highland diſtricts. Thus it is in the power of one patriot to increaſe the happineſs of millions. The conqueror has for his object the empty aggrandizement of his own name at

* It is worthy of remark, that at the very time theſe petitions were preſented, a military force, conſiſting of about 500 regulars beſides volunteers, and ſeveral ſmall ſhips of war and tranſports, with a good train of artillery, and ſuitably provided with warlike ſtores, under the command of Colonel Polſon and Captain (now Lord) Nelſon, ſailed from Jamaica on an expedition againſt the Spaniſh Main.

the expenſe of the ruin of millions. So oppoſite are theſe two characters *.

March 21st—Twelve millions were raiſed for the ſervice of government by a loan, the ſubſcribers to which received an annuity of £4, with a terminable one of £1 : 16 : 3 to continue for eighty years, for every £100 paid in, together with a privilege of having four lottery tickets at £10 each for every ſubſcription of £1,000; the whole ſum to be raiſed by the lottery being £480,000. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 16.]

The ſeveral acts, which prohibited carrying gold or ſilver coin to Ireland, were repealed. The Iriſh were allowed to import foreign hops, aud to receive a drawback of the duty on Britiſh. They were alſo allowed to become members of the Turkey company, and moreover to carry on a direct trade between Ireland and the Levant ſea in the ſame manner as the Turkey company of England had hitherto excluſively done. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 18.]

Several acts which were near expiring, were continued as follows.

The act for ſecuring to the Eaſt-India company the excluſive trade to India, and preventing Britiſh ſubjects from trading thither under foreign colours, continued to 25th March 1781.

The act for importing ſalt from Europe to Quebec, continued till 24th June 1785.

The act for permitting the free importation of raw goat-ſkins, continued till 20th June 1785.

So much of the act for allowing the exportation of limited quantities of wheat to the ſugar iſlands and other places, as relates to the ſugar iſlands, continued till 1st May 1781.

So much of the act 17 Geo. III, c. 43, as relates to the exportation of tobacco-pipe clay to the ſugar iſlands, continued till 24th June 1783. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 19.]

The liberty of navigating Britiſh ſhips with foreign ſeamen, not exceeding three fourths of their complement, was prolonged till 25th March 1781. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 20.]

April—The chevalier de Pinto, the Portugueſe ambaſſador, preſented ſome memorials complaining of infractions of the treaties between Britain and Portugal, and remonſtrating againſt an additional duty propoſed to be laid upon Portugal wines. The ſeveral articles of his complaint were found to be frivolous, or unſupported by proof: and with reſpect to the propoſed duty on wine, it was anſwered, that, as the wines of France would be affected by it in the proportion, ſtipulated in the

* The reader may compare Loch's *Eſſays on the trade, commerce, manufactures, and fiſheries, of Scotland*, 8vo *Edin.* 1775 *and* 1778, with the ſpecious, but miſtaken (not ill-intended) arguments for preferring the linen manufacture, urged in *The intereſt of Scotland conſidered*, 8vo *Edin.* 1733, written by Mr. Lindſay, alſo a merchant in Edinburgh and a friend to the proſperity of his country, when the inſtilled rage for the linen manufacture was in its youth and greateſt vigour.

commercial treaty with Portugal, his nation could have no juſt cauſe of complaint.

Soon after the Europeans began to trade to China, the emperor eſtabliſhed a *co-hong*, or company of merchants, conſiſting of ten hongs, or mercantile houſes, and inveſted them with an excluſive privilege of tranſacting all buſineſs with the Europeans, who were not permitted to deal with any other Chineſe merchants, unleſs with their conſent. The co-hong were made conjunctly reſponſible to the government and to the foreign merchants. They fixed the prices of all goods, imported or to be exported, and regulated the terms of all trade with foreigners: and it is ſaid, they were never known to abuſe ſo extraordinary a power. In the beginning of the year 1771 the co-hong was diſſolved: but the officers of government at Canton declared, that no foreigner ſhould do any buſineſs but with the ten houſes formerly incorporated in the co-hong, or ſuch perſons as ſhould be recommended by one of them, or by one of the three principal linguiſts; and that if they dealt with any other perſons, the government ſhould not be anſwerable for any loſſes they might ſuſtain by truſting Chineſe traders.

The ten hongs now ſtrove to ſupplant each-other in the favour of the officers of government: and the property of Britiſh ſubjects was laviſhed in bribes (called preſents) to thoſe officers, who conſequently protected their favourite hongs againſt the complaints of the Europeans. As thoſe complaints were very frequent, the hong merchants procured a declaration from the officers of government at Canton, that they would in future receive no memorial or petition from any European, but ſuch as ſhould be preſented by a hong merchant. The Britiſh merchants at Canton, finding themſelves thus ſhut out from all poſſibility of obtaining redreſs there, tranſmitted repreſentations of the large amount of Britiſh property, thus circumſtanced in China, to their creditors in London and Madras. The creditors in London applied to the directors of the Eaſt-India company, who thought that the debt due to the Britiſh ſubjects in Canton ought, on account of its great amount *, to be conſidered as an object of national concern. On the application of the creditors in Madras, the commander of the Britiſh fleet in the Indian ſeas, ſent a frigate to Canton two years ſucceſſively to demand juſtice for the Britiſh ſubjects in the name of his Britannic majeſty. This reiterated demand procured a curious mode of ſettling the affair. The debts due by two of the hong merchants being adjuſted, with intereſt to the end of the ſeaſon 1779-80, were found to amount to about £400,000. One half of that large ſum was entirely lopped off; and payment of the remainder was ordered to be made in ten years by annual inſtallments,

* A letter from Canton, dated 15th January 1780, ſtated the amount of the debts to be 3,808,075 dollars: the memorial for the agents of the creditors in 1778 ſtated it at £1,000,000: and Mr. Smith's account of the debts raiſed the total to £2,025,863 ſterling.

but without any intereſt. The funds for the payments were not drawn from the effects of the two hongs, who were the defaulters, nor from the exchequer of China, nor from any public or private Chineſe property; but from a new tax, laid, for the purpoſe, upon the European trade with China. The Chineſe government, I believe, juſtified the meaſure by a law of the empire forbidding foreigners to make any loans (which might perhaps be extended to giving credit in commercial tranſactions) to any ſubject of China: and thence they even claimed a merit of generoſity to the individual ſufferers in doing what they did. With reſpect to the debts due by another of the hongs, amounting to near £400,000, a promiſe was made, that they ſhould be put in a train of ſettlement, after the others ſhould be paid off. But as to the debts due by the reſt of the hongs, no kind of promiſe of any ſatisfaction whatever could be obtained.

Upon this tranſaction a committee of the Eaſt-India company remarked, that, 'It may appear extraordinary, but it is no leſs true, that 'the company have ſuſtained great injury from individuals having be-'come the creditors of the Chineſe.' It may be added, that it was at leaſt as extraordinary, that the Europeans ſhould have been better uſed in their commercial concerns by a company poſſeſſing an excluſive monopoly, than by the partners of that company competing individually for the advantages of their trade.

April 17th.—The king publiſhed a declaration announcing, that the Dutch, by their neglect or refuſal of furniſhing the ſuccours ſtipulated by treaty, had deſerted the alliance between Great Britain and the republic; and that thenceforth they ſhould be conſidered as in the ſituation of a neutral power, not privileged by treaty, and all the advantages granted to their navigation and commerce in time of war by the marine treaty of the year 1674 ſhould be ſuſpended till further orders *.

* The truth is, that the marine treaty of 1674 appears to have been very looſely drawn up. The third article, which declares what goods are to be eſteemed contraband, includes only artillery, ammunition, arms, armour, ſoldiers, horſes, and their furniture: and the fourth article ſays, that 'all 'proviſion which ſerves for the nouriſhment and 'ſuſtenance of life; likewiſe all kind of cotton, 'hemp, flax, and pitch; and ropes, ſails, and 'anchors; alſo maſts and planks, boards and 'beams of what ſort of wood ſoever, and all other 'materials requiſite for the building or repairing 'ſhips' 'ſhall be wholly reputed amongſt free 'goods, even as all other wares and commodities, 'which are not comprehended in the next pre-'cedent article; ſo that the ſame may be freely 'tranſported and carried' 'by the ſubjects of the 'ſaid States to places under the obedience of the 'enemies of his ſaid Majeſty.'——It was upon this article that the Dutch founded their claim to an abſolute freedom of commerce. But there was a ſecret article, which expreſsly prohibited the ſubjects of either power from ſuroiſhing any ſhips, ſoldiers, ſeamen, *victuals*, money, *inſtruments of war*, &c. to the enemies of either party. And this article, ſo contradictory to the other, was what the Britiſh ambaſſador inſiſted on in his remonſtrance to the States-general, and was made the rule of conduct for our naval commanders, who would, no doubt, conſider the materials of ſhips as the moſt important *inſtruments of war*. See *Chalmers's Collection of treaties*, *V.* i, *pp.* 178, 179, or Anderſon's brief account of this treaty under the year 1674.

May 4th—The duties upon pot-aſhes and other aſhes, imported from the continent of Europe, and uſed in manufactures, being found to be a diſcouragement to ſome manufactures, were reduced to 2*ſ.* on pot-aſhes and pearl-aſhes, and 6*d.* on wood and weed aſhes, per hundred-weight of 112 pounds. The act to continue in force till 31st May 1783. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

The trade of Aberyſtwyth being conſiderably increaſed, and larger veſſels being employed in it than formerly, a number of gentlemen of the neighbourhood were incorporated for the purpoſe of deepening and improving the harbour. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

The iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines being now under the dominion of the French, an act was paſſed, protecting the property of the Britiſh ſubjects of thoſe iſlands, ſhipped onboard neutral veſſels for neutral ports, againſt being taken by Britiſh ſhips of war or privateers, provided the whole cargo was taken in at the iſlands, and the certificate atteſted by any five of a number of gentlemen named in the act. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

An additional duty of eight guineas was laid on every tun of French wine or vinegar, and of four guineas on the wines and vinegars of other countries. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 30.]

A great proportion of the Britiſh mercantile ſhipping being at this time withdrawn from the purpoſes of trade by being converted into tranſports or privateers, it became almoſt impoſſible to find veſſels ſufficient to export the corn, which was now very plentiful, that were legally qualified to receive the bounty allowed on the exportation of it. It was therefor enacted, that half the bounty ſhould be allowed on the exportation of corn in neutral veſſels preceding the 25th of March 1781. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 31.]

When the American colonies withdrew their allegiance from Great Britain, and the eſtabliſhed form of government was conſequently diſſolved, thoſe, who ſucceeded to the adminiſtration of affairs, either wanted ſufficient energy, or were unwilling to run the riſk of giving offence to the people by enforcing the collection of taxes ſufficient to defray the public charges, and provide for the redemption of their bills of credit. Theſe by the extraordinary charges of the war increaſed to an amount ſo diſproportionate to the funds for their redemption, that a depretiation of their value ſoon took place, which, though ſmall at the beginning, increaſed with ſuch alarming rapidity, that at this time *forty* paper dollars were given for *one* ſilver one. Indeed, it was difficult, or rather impoſſible, to fix any ſtandard of value for them; ſo that no man could know what he was doing in money matters, or could carry on trade with any certainty or regularity, ſuch money being no longer a ſtandard, whereby the value of any property or labour could be aſcertained.

Notwithſtanding the embarraſſments inſeparable from the degraded ſtate of the continental currency, the council and aſſembly of Maſſachuſets bay incorporated *The American academy of arts and ſciences* for promoting improvements in agriculture, arts, manufactures, and commerce, and every art and ſcience tending to advance the intereſt, honour, dignity, and happineſs, of a free, independent, and virtuous, people (May 4th). Even if ſome of theſe expreſſions might be aſcribed to oſtentation and the eagerneſs of the citizens of a young ſtate to make a parade of their independence, yet a friend of mankind muſt be pleaſed to ſee the arts, which poliſh and improve human nature, and which generally ſhrink from the rude blaſt of war, attempt to raiſe their heads amidſt its ſtorms and ravages.

June 2d-8th—The metropolis was in the greateſt danger of utter deſtruction by conflagration. A mob, ſuppoſed to conſiſt of about 50,000 perſons calling themſelves the *Proteſtant aſſociation*, after preſenting to the houſe of commons a petition, ſaid to be ſigned by above 100,000 people, praying for the repeal of an act, which the more liberal policy of the preſent age had induced the legiſlature to paſs, for moderating the hardſhips impoſed upon the Roman catholics by an act of King William III, proceeded to demoliſh the Roman chapels, not ſparing thoſe of the foreign ambaſſadors, kept the whole town in terrors, and trampled under foot all law and authority. In reſentment for the impriſonment of ſome of their companions, they ſet the gaol of Newgate on fire, and gave liberty to the priſoners of all deſcriptions. Many of theſe immediately took advantage of the general confuſion to ſet open ſome of the other priſons; and then, reinforced by the abandoned inmates of them, demoliſhed the furniture, and every other kind of property they could lay their hands on, belonging to Lord Mansfield, Sir John Fielding, and other magiſtrates who were obnoxious to them. They threatened to deſtroy the bank, the inns of court, the palaces, and the arſenal at Woolwich; and they actually ſet fire to the King's-bench and Fleet priſons, New Bridewell, and many houſes in various quarters of the town. The bank, the royal exchange, Gildhall, the inns of court, the poſt-office, St. James's park, Hyde-park, and many private houſes, became camps or garriſons for the army and militia, by whoſe exertions the rioters were at laſt ſuppreſſed, after keeping the town in the moſt deſperate ſtate of anarchy and diſtreſs for a whole week. Such were the unhappy effects of religious bigotry and intolerance.

June—Tobacco, the produce of the American colonies now at war with the mother country, uſed frequently to be bought at the neutral iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, and carried thence to ſome of the Britiſh iſlands, where it was reſhipped for Britain. As it was thought advantageous to receive it, even with the load of all the circuitous freight, inſurance, &c. the doubts, which had ariſen concerning the legality of

ſuch importation, were removed by parliament, and the tobacco imported in Britiſh veſſels admitted to entry during the preſent hoſtilities on payment of $1\frac{1}{76}$ penny per pound of additional duty. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 39.]

An act was paſſed, for laying ſeveral additional duties on goods carried from Britain to the iſland of Mann; for allowing a drawback on teas carried to it; for allowing veſſels, not under 70 tuns *, carrying herrings from Mann to Madeira and the Mediterranean, to import wines of any country, except France, direct to Mann; and containing alſo ſeveral other regulations for the trade and fiſhery of that iſland. [20 *Geo.* III, *c.* 42.]

The navigation act was ſo far diſpenſed with, that every member of the Turkey company was allowed to import into Great Britain or Ireland in neutral veſſels the goods uſually brought from the Turkiſh dominions till the 1st of June 1781; the danger of capture being ſo great, that the trade could not otherways be carried on. Cotton, imported in foreign veſſels, was made liable to a duty of $1\frac{5}{76}$ penny per pound, without being entitled to any drawback on exportation. [20 *Geo.* III, *c.* 45.]

Such places in America as were under the protection of the Britiſh arms were allowed to have a free commercial intercourſe with Great Britain, Ireland, or any of the colonies acknowleging the ſovereignty of the mother country. [20 *Geo.* III, *c.* 46.]

Lord North made a motion in the houſe of commons, (21st March) that notice ſhould be given to the Eaſt-India company of the intention of parliament to pay off the capital ſtock or debt of £4,200,000, together with the intereſt upon it, due by the public to the company, on the 5th of April 1783 agreeably to the power of redemption in the act of parliament, and the ſtipulation of three years' notice; after which the company's excluſive privilege would expire. He ſaid, he had expected, that the company would have made ſome ſuitable offer of terms for the renewal of their charter; but, though the time was ſo near, when it would be neceſſary for government to give notice of repayment, no propoſal had hitherto been offered on the part of the company, which came near to the expectation, or right, of the public, who were entitled either to the whole of the territorial acquiſitions and revenues, or, if the company were permitted to retain the monopoly of the trade, to a participation of the profits.

The terms propoſed by the miniſter for a renewal of the company's excluſive privilege were, that they ſhould pay down £1,000,000, and alſo account to the public for three fourths of all the ſurplus of the profits of their trade above a dividend of *eight per cent*, which they were

* Till now no veſſels under 100 tuns could import wines into the iſland.

never to enlarge. By this propoſal it is evident, that the company were to ſtand to the riſk of all loſſes without any adequate proſpect of profit (for it is to be obſerved, that £8 was only the bare intereſt at five per cent upon the average price, which £100 of India ſtock ſold for about this time, and loſſes in trade might reduce the dividend ſtill lower) while the public, without running any riſk at all, were to have, what would in general be, the largeſt ſhare of the profits.

In the courſe of the inveſtigation of the Eaſt-India company's affairs upon this occaſion, the following eſtimate was made of the ſtate of their joint property, or ſtock.

Original ſtock *	£3,200,000	Property in India, above	£13,000,000
Bonds and other debts	1,800,000		
Net ſurplus eſtate, after deducting original ſtock, as well as debts	15,000,000	Debt due by the public	4,200,000
		Effects in England, at leaſt	2,800,000
	£20,000,000		£20,000,000

From this ſtatement it was aſſerted, that, in the event of a diſſolution of the company, every ſhare of £100 original ſtock would be worth much more than £500 †.

The final ſettlement of the buſineſs of the charter was poſtponed for the preſent by a temporary act of parliament, whereby

July 3d—The Eaſt-India company were allowed to retain the entire revenue ariſing from the territorial acquiſitions in India, though their debt to the public of £1,400,000 was paid off, and their bond debts reduced to, or under, £1,500,000, till the 5th of April 1781, and till then to make dividends not exceeding *eight per cent* per annum; the ſurplus revenues and profits being reſerved for the diſpoſal of a future agreement between the public and the company, who are laid under the ſame reſtrictions with reſpect to accepting bills from India, the government of their ſettlements, ſubmitting the ſtate of their affairs to the lords of the treaſury, and the diſpoſal of their funds, as by the preceding acts (13 *Geo. III, c.* 64.—19 *Geo. III, c.* 61) with the exception of

* The ſubſcribed ſtock was £3,200,000. But all the inſtallments paid in by the ſubſcribers amounted only to 87½ per cent, being £2,800,000; and the ſtock-holders are ſtill liable to a call for the remaining 12½ per cent, amounting to £400,000. [*Account preſented by the company to parliament, in* 1784.]

† But by another ſtatement, laid before the company on the 9th November, the net balance of their ſtock in England, India, and China, was only £5,963,817, excluſive of their poſſeſſions abroad and at home, their forts, their houſe in Leadenhall ſtreet, warehouſes, &c. all which were valued at above £7,000,000 more; their whole property of every kind being by this eſtimate ſomewhat under £13,000,000, inſtead of £18,200,000. It is evident that the valuation of many branches of their property can only be made by arbitrary eſtimation.

being indemnified for expending a large ſum in building three ſhips of 74 guns tobe preſented to the public. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 56.]

The company were alſo indulged with time for receiving the drawback on the exportation of ſome coffee, imported in the year 1775, beyond the period limited by law. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 58.]

The uſe of copper ſheathing being now univerſal in the navy, that metal came to be conſidered as a part of military ſtores, and as ſuch, it became an object of the attention of the legiſlature, that it ſhould be carefully guarded againſt the riſk of capture by the enemy. The exportation of it, and even the carriage of it by water from one port of Britain to another, were therefor ſtrictly prohibited. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 59.]

The whale fiſhery in the Greenland ſeas, and that in the Gulf of S^t. Laurence, being under different regulations, the latitude of 59° 30 was fixed as the legal limit between them. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 60.]

For the advantage of trade and the honour of this kingdom, the rewards held out for the diſcovery of the longitude, or improvements in the calculation of it, were continued. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 61.]

Among the articles of public expenditure the only one meriting to be noted here is that, which gave £10,000 this year, inſtead of the cuſtomary £5,000, to the Levant, or Turkey, company. [20 *Geo. III, c.* 62.]

July 4^th—As ſome counterpoiſe to the unfriendly operations of the Dutch and the apprehended effects of the Northern armed neutrality, a negotiation was entered into with the king of Denmark for an explanation of the 16^th article of the treaty of alliance and commerce between Great Britain and Denmark in the year 1670, wherein the ſpecies of goods, prohibited to be carried by the ſubjects of either of the contracting ſovereigns to the enemies of the other had been ſuperficially deſcribed under the general name of *contrabanda*. It was now agreed that, beſides all kinds of artillery, ammunition, arms, armour, ſoldiers, horſes and their furniture, they ſhould alſo include, under the denomination of contraband, timber for ſhip-building, pitch, tar, roſin, copper in ſheets, ſails, canvaſs, cordage, and in general every article uſed in fitting out ſhips; excepting only iron in a rough ſtate, and fir planks. But it was expreſsly declared, that fiſh and meat, whether freſh or ſalted, grain and flour of all kinds, oil, wine, and all other articles for the nouriſhment and ſuſtenance of life, ſhould be freely carried to any port belonging to the enemies of the other party, provided it is not in a ſtate of blockade *.

July 17^th—The parliament of Ireland, having reſolved to encourage the cultivation of flax and the manufacture of linen in their own country, repealed the bounties payable on the importation of flax-ſeed, and

* The original is publiſhed by Mr. Chalmers in his *Collection of treaties*, V. i, *p.* 97.

applied the annual average amounts thereof, together with that of a new duty now laid on lint-ſeed oil imported, to encourage the growth of flax-ſeed and hemp-ſeed in Ireland, and alſo to give bounties on the exportation of certain ſpecies of Iriſh linens to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, and Minorca; and to Iriſh ſail-cloth exported to any place except Great Britain. It was ſaid that native ſeed was found to be better and more certain than that which is imported, and it was evidently the intereſt of the Iriſh to give every reaſonable encouragement to the internal production of materials, on which their ſtaple manufacture depends, and to which their ſoil and climate are peculiarly ſuitable.

In the courſe of an examination into this ſubject by the lords of trade it appeared, that the Britiſh bounties given on the exportation of Iriſh linens had operated in the following proportions.

In 1743, the firſt year of the bounty, the Iriſh linens exported from England were	- -	40,907 yards
1753	- -	1,039,967
1763	- -	2,588,564
1773	- -	2,832,246

It may be obſerved that the increaſe was aided by enlarged duties on foreign linens, which took place during that time; though ſuch duties are ſaid to have operated to the prejudice of our own woollen trade by inducing foreign powers to lay reciprocal burthens and reſtrictions on our manufactures.

The whole Iriſh linens imported into London and the out-ports of England were in 1743	-	6,418,375 yards
1773	-	17,876,617

The total value of linens exported from Ireland, was

in 1741	- -	£480,516
1751	- -	751,993
1761	- -	803,258
1771	- -	1,691,787

and it is eſtimated, that about ſeven eighths of the whole quantity exported comes to Great Britain.

That this great increaſe was more owing to the ſyſtem of bounties and duties, than to the general increaſe of our trade, appears from the decreaſe of the imports and exports of foreign linens at the ſame periods in London and the out-ports of England, which were as follows.

Imported.		Exported.
18,584,503 ells	in 1743	9,894,837 ells.
8,954,649	1773	4,385,276
decreaſe 9,629,854		5,509,561

The exports of Britiſh linens entitled to bounty were

in 1743	- -	52,779 yards
1753	- -	641,510
1763	- -	2,308,310
1773	- -	3,279,808

beſides which the increaſe in the exportation of the finer linens, not entitled to bounty, has been nearly as great in value, though not in quantity *.

Upon the whole, the lords of trade gave it as their opinion, that the bounties propoſed by the Iriſh parliament for encouraging the growth of flax-ſeed and hemp-ſeed in Ireland 'cannot affect the intereſts of the 'linen trade of this kingdom, and are, *ſo far as bounties may in any caſe* '*be expedient*, wiſely and providently applied by theſe new proviſions to 'promote the intereſt of the Iriſh linen trade.'—that the expenſes upon the importation of Iriſh linens to be exported from Britain amount to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and that conſequently, the bounties being equalized in the two kingdoms, the Iriſh exporter will have an advantage of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent over the Britiſh exporter: but the long credits to be given in foreign markets, the uncertainty of returns, the inability of the Iriſh merchant to aſſort his cargoes with the vaſt variety of manufactures and foreign goods to be found in England, together with the difficulty of diverting any trade from its accuſtomed channel, will long bear hard on the adventurers; though an exiſting operative advantage in favour of any branch of trade muſt in all probability ultimately effect its eſtabliſhment. Should any inconvenience to the trade of Great Britain proceed from the expected ſuperiority of the export linen trade of Ireland, they obſerve, that, notwithſtanding the combined operation of bounties and duties, amounting to near 15 per cent, the foreign manufacturers are ſtill enabled to keep up a competition, eſpecially in the finer linens; and that a ſmall reduction of the duties would therefor bring them as cheap as ever to Great Britain, and with advantage to the revenue. 'It might probably, too, obtain in return a larger conſumption of 'woollen manufactures and other goods upon the continent of 'Europe.'

'Having obſerved, that our ſyſtem of linen bounties and linen 'duties, *though poſſibly in many caſes exceptionable in the great ſcale of com-* '*mercial policy*, has proved an eſſential encouragement to the Iriſh ſtaple,' they ſay, 'we think it right to add, that it has alſo been the means of

* For a more particular account of the linens annually exported from England to the end of the year 1771, &c. ſee above, p. 515. It is worthy of obſervation, that, from a compariſon of the Engliſh imports and exports of Iriſh linens, it appears, that four fifths, or perhaps ſeven eighths of the whole were conſumed by the people of England, and thoſe moſtly of the fineſt quality. The lords of trade have reckoned the home conſumpt as *at leaſt* four fifths. In the copy of this Report publiſhed by Lord Sheffield in his Obſervations on the trade of Ireland the number of yards of Britiſh bounty linen exported in 1773 is 5,235,266; apparently a typographical error.

'*forcing* forward an extenſive linen manufacture in this kingdom, '*though ſtruggling under a great diſadvantage as to the growth and ſupply of* '*the raw material* *.'

Auguſt 8th—The outward-bound fleets for the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, under the convoy of a ſhip of 74 guns and two frigates, were met by the combined fleets of France and Spain, which almoſt ſurrounded them. Our ſhips of war eſcaped: but five Eaſt-India ſhips and forty-ſeven Weſt-India ſhips were taken. The ſhips and their cargoes were of ſuch value, that, it is ſuppoſed, ſo rich a capture was never before made upon the ocean; and it certainly was one of the ſevereſt blows, that ever the commerce of Great Britain ſuſtained.

In the ſummer of 1776 Captain Cook ſailed on a third voyage of diſcovery in his former ſhip the Reſolution, accompanied by the Diſcovery, which was commanded by Captain Clerke. In this, as in the former voyages, the officers were men of ſcience, as well as navigators: and, in addition to the naval eſtabliſhment, Mr. Bailey again embarked as aſtronomer; Mr. Webber, a German artiſt, was engaged as painter; and Mr. Anderſon, who had already made the circuit of the globe as ſurgeon of the Reſolution, took upon him the obſervations in the departments of natural hiſtory and philology. The chief object of this voyage, beſides the improvement of the geography of the globe for the ſervice of navigation and commerce, was to explore the north-weſt coaſt of America, and, if poſſible, to return home by the ſuppoſed north-weſt paſſage, or by the ſea which ſeparates the north part of the continent of America from Europe and Aſia. Another object of the voyage was to ſupply ſome of the iſlands of the Pacific ocean with ſeveral kinds of uſeful animals and vegetables, which, if they are allowed to multiply, will add, not only to the comforts of the iſlanders to whom they are given, but alſo afford reſtorative nouriſhment to ſuch navigators, as opening views of commerce may afterwards induce to reſort to thoſe iſlands.

After viſiting ſome of his former diſcoveries and ſeveral new-found iſlands in the Pacific ocean, he arrived on the weſt coaſt of America in the latitude of 44° 33′ north, whence he ranged along the whole of that extenſive coaſt, and having ſurveyed every opening which promiſed any probability of a paſſage to the Atlantic, he at laſt arrived at the ſtrait which ſeparates America from Aſia, paſſed through it, and ſailed in the Frozen ocean, till the accumulation of ice rendered a farther progreſs impracticable. After his return from the Frozen ocean, in order to paſs the winter in a temperate climate, this moſt illuſtrious navigator, un-

* Notwithſtanding the ſevere cenſures thrown out in the houſe of commons by Mr. Burke againſt the lords of trade for their deficiency in commercial knowlege, it is no ſmall ſatisfaction to me to ſee, the idea, I ventured to ſuggeſt in a note in p. 517, ſupported by the judgement of men of ſuch eminent abilities, as thoſe who then compoſed that board.

fortunately for the world, loſt his life at Owhyhee, one of the iſlands diſcovered in this voyage, by the hands of the natives, with whom he had previouſly been on the moſt friendly terms. After his death Captain Clerke made a ſecond attempt to penetrate the Frozen ocean, and met with a ſecond repulſe from the ice; which is a ſufficient proof, that, though there is no reaſon to doubt that there is a ſea unobſtructed by land between the old and new continents, yet the prodigious maſſes of ice, which are ſcarcely ever thawed, oppoſe an everlaſting bar, as inſuperable as the moſt ſolid mountains of rock, to the efforts of the navigator.

In ranging along the coaſt of America Captain Cook diſcovered Nootka ſound, ſince become famous from the diſputes with Spain concerning it, and as being the earlieſt, and principal, ſeat of our fur trade on that coaſt, the firſt fruits of which were gathered in this voyage. And during the courſe of the voyage plans for the moſt advantageous proſecution of that lucrative trade were projected by Captain Cook, and, after his death digeſted and matured by Captain King *.

At the Ruſſian harbour of S^t. Peter and S^t. Paul on the eaſt coaſt of Kamtſchatka, where the navigators were treated with the moſt generous hoſpitality by Colonel Behm the governor, the officers, and inhabitants, they obſerved, that, even in that remoteſt corner of the habitable earth, the manufactures of this country made a principal part of their imported conveniencies †.

The two ſhips having loſt both their captains, arrived in Britain under the command of Meſſieurs Gore and King, who had embarked as firſt and ſecond lieutenants of the Reſolution, in the month of October 1780.

This brief account of Captain Cook's laſt expedition ought not to be cloſed without making honourable mention of the liberality and generoſity of the French government, and, in imitation of them, of the Spaniards and Americans, who gave orders to all their ſhips of war and privateers, in caſe of meeting with the two weather-beaten ſhips which had for ſo many years encountered the hardſhips of every climate, by no means to offer to moleſt them, but rather to give them every friendly aſſiſtance in their power. Such conduct is a ſtriking mark of the diſtinction between the humanized warfare of modern enlightened nations, and the indiſcriminate maſſacres of the barbarians of former

* See *Cook's Third voyage, V.* ii, *p.* 401; *V.* iii, *p.* 438.

† Captain King dwells with great ſatisfaction on the pleaſing ideas of home excited in him by the ſight of an old pewter ſpoon with the word *London* ſtamped on the back of it. Indeed there is ſcarcely any part of the world, to which Britiſh manufactures have not found their way. From Mr. Stewart's letter to Sir John Pringle (in the *Philoſophical tranſactions*) we learn, that Mr. Bogle, when at the court of the Lama of Thibet, in the interior part of Aſia, ſaw there many European pictures, looking-glaſſes, and trinkets of gold, ſilver, and ſteel, chiefly Engliſh, which he had received by means of the Tartar ſubjects of Ruſſia, and particularly a Graham's repeating watch, which had been dead, as they ſaid, for ſome time.

ages. And ſuch was the honourable teſtimony of applauſe beſtowed by foreigners upon the Britiſh voyages of ſcience; voyages, wherein ſhips of war were employed, not for the deſtruction, but for the general ſervice, of mankind; and which conferred a dignity on all concerned in them, not excepting even thoſe who embarked in the lower ſtations, ſeveral of whom were ſo far ennobled by having ſailed under Cook, that they afterwards became principals in ſcientific reſearches in every quarter of the globe.

No man ever extended the ſcience of geography, that ſcience ſo fundamentally and eſſentially uſeful to extenſive navigation, more than Cook, or was a greater ornament to it. To him we are indebted for the diſcovery, or the improved knowlege, and accurate poſition, of moſt of the iſlands, which have lately been added to the geography of the world, whereby our modern navigators are emboldened to double the formerly-tremendous Cape Horn, and traverſe the vaſt Pacific ocean, with leſs danger than their predeceſſors of the fifteenth century incurred in ſtretching acroſs the Bay of Biſcay; and alſo for the chief information reſpecting the manners and language of that widely-diſperſed race of people, who occupy the innumerable iſlands ſcattered between the eaſt coaſt of Africa and the weſt coaſt of America; an extent of more than half the circumference of the globe. To him we are indebted for the complete and final deciſion of the grand queſtion, which for ages had agitated the minds of ſpeculative philoſophers and cloſet voyagers, upon the *neceſſary* exiſtence of a great ſouthern continent: and in his laſt voyage the repeated diſappointment in attempting to navigate the oppoſite polar ſeas, together with the then-aſcertained vicinity of America and Aſia, very nearly amounted to a demonſtration, that the long-looked-for northern paſſage is equally viſionary. 'The method, 'which he diſcovered, and ſo ſucceſsfully purſued, of preſerving the 'health of ſeamen, forms a new æra in navigation, and will tranſmit 'his name to future ages amongſt the friends and benefactors of man-'kind. It was reſerved for Captain Cook to ſhew the world, that 'voyages might be protracted to the unuſual length of three, or even 'four, years in unknown regions, and under every change and rigour 'of climate, not only without affecting the health, but even without 'diminiſhing the probability of life in the ſmalleſt degree*.' If he had never conferred any other benefit on mankind, for this alone

His name ſhall live as long as the ocean ſhall be navigated.

* Theſe are the words of Captain King, who wrote the remainder of the voyage, contained in the third volume, after the death of his reſpected commander. The account of the preceding part of the voyage, contained in the two firſt volumes, is written by Captain Cook himſelf; as is alſo the account of his ſecond voyage, publiſhed in two volumes quarto. Thus we find Cook, in addition to his other great and uſeful talents, making a very reſpectable figure as an author. And here it is proper to obſerve, that the account of the laſt voyage in three volumes quarto, with a ſplendid accompaniment of illuſtrative and ornamental plates, was publiſhed at the national expenſe, as a public tribute of reſpect to the memory of the worthy commander.

As being connected with Captain Cook's laſt voyage, I have deferred till now the mention of two attempts to find a paſſage from Baffin's bay to the weſtward. The firſt was conducted by Lieutenant Pickerſgill in the armed brig Lion during the ſummer of 1776; and the ſecond was undertaken by Lieutenant Young in the ſame veſſel in the following ſummer: and the object of both was to endeavour to penetrate to the Pacific ocean, in hopes to meet with Cook coming from it. It is almoſt needleſs to add, that neither of theſe voyages produced any diſcovery.

October 3d—It pleaſed God to viſit the ſugar colonies with one of the moſt tremendous hurricanes that had ever afflicted the Weſt-Indies. In Jamaica it attacked the leeward (or weſtern) end of the iſland in conjunction with an earthquake and an inundation of the ſea, which with one ſudden ſweep carried away the whole town of Savanna-la-mar (a place of conſiderable trade) ſo completely, that ſcarcely a veſtige of a building was to be ſeen after the retreat of the water *. In the whole of the two weſtern pariſhes of Weſtmoreland and Hanover, and in the adjacent parts of St. James's and St. Elizabeth's, very few houſes, trees, or plants of any kind, were left ſtanding. Many white people and negroes, and vaſt numbers of cattle, periſhed, and thoſe who ſurvived were deſtitute of ſhelter, clothing, and food. General Dalling, governor of the iſland, as ſoon as he knew of the deſolation, aſſembled the merchants of Kingſton, who, with a generoſity worthy of the characters of Britons and Weſt-Indians, immediately ſent a ſupply of neceſſaries, to the value of £10,000 to the relief of the unhappy ſufferers. In the pariſh of Weſtmoreland, which comprehends Savanna-la-mar, the damage was computed by a committee, appointed for that purpoſe, to amount to £950,000 Jamaica currency (£678,571 : 8 : 7 ſterling †.)

October 10th-11th—In Barbados the hurricane deſtroyed almoſt every houſe in Bridgetown, which was juſt recovering from the effects of two dreadful fires, and alſo moſt of the houſes in the ſmaller towns and on the plantations all-over the iſland. All the fruits of the earth of every kind were deſtroyed. Nearly one half of the cattle, 2,033 ſlaves, and a great number of white people and free people of colour, were killed. The whole damage done to the property in the iſland was ſtated at £1,320,564 : 15 : 0 ſterling. The ſhips at anchor fortunately got out to ſea. One good conſequence reſulting from this calamity was, that

* It may be neceſſary to obſerve, to thoſe who have never ſeen any houſes but ſuch as are built with ſtone or brick, that the town was built entirely of wood; ſo that the houſes were as liable to be floated off from the ground on which they ſtood by an inundation, as veſſels lying aground are by the flowing of the tide.—When Mr. Edwards publiſhed his Hiſtory of the Weſt-Indies (1793) Savanna-la-mar was ſo far recovered as to contain from 60 to 70 houſes.

† The ſufferers of Jamaica and Barbados alſo got ſome relief from parliament in the enſuing year, as will be obſerved in its place.

the negroes were thenceforth treated with more tenderneſs, and ſeveral machines for abridging their labour were introduced *.

In Tobago the hurricane was but ſlightly felt, and did no great damage.

In Grenada, now under the dominion of France, it made great deſolation: and it alſo produced ſome benefit as an alleviation of the calamity. The devaſtations committed in this iſland by the carnivorous ants, and the ineffectual attempts to deſtroy them, have already been related (p. 610). They had lately decreaſed in conſequence of the decreaſe of the canes, their principal ſhelter, as many of the planters had been compelled by their ravages to abandon the cultivation of ſugar. But their complete extermination was now effected by the hurricane, which tore up the trees, canes, and other plants, under which they burrowed, and let the water in upon them, which drowned them all. Thus did a dreadful ſcourge operate in ſome degree as a bleſſing by relieving the iſland from the continual ravages of thoſe invincible vermin †.

All-over the Weſt-India ſeas vaſt numbers of ſhips of war and merchantmen belonging to different nations were loſt. Of the crews of two of our frigates wrecked on the coaſt of Martinique only thirty-one men eſcaped alive, and they were immediately ſent to Commodore Hotham at St. Lucia by the generoſity of the marquis de Bouillé, who declared, he could not conſider as priſoners of war men whom the fury of the elements had thrown defenceleſs upon the ſhore of his government.

The powers of Europe had long beheld with eyes of envy and jealouſy the naval ſuperiority of Great Britain; and they hoped, that the ſeceſſion of the revolted colonies of America, and the alliance of France and Spain with them, would be fully ſufficient to humble the power of this country, which ſtood unſupported by a ſingle ally. But when it appeared, that the maritime force of Great Britain alone was capable of maintaining the arduous conflict againſt the fleets of France, Spain, and America, and that even the Britiſh privateers conſtituted a naval force ſufficient to curb the attempts of the ſubjects of the neutral powers to convey warlike ſtores to the enemies of Great Britain, a plan was formed for a more extenſive, and more powerful, oppoſition to, what was called, the maritime tyranny of Great Britain.

Ruſſia is a vaſt empire, which can pour forth a moſt formidable army, but which the hand of Nature has ſhut up from ever becoming a maritime power, or having any immediate connection with the ocean, except in the frozen regions of it, and the almoſt-unnavigated northern extremity of the Pacific. Nevertheleſs, the empreſs of Ruſſia, whom

* See the anſwers from Barbados in the *Report of the privy council upon the ſlave trade.*

† See *Obſervations on the ſugar ants* by John Caſtles Eſq^r. in a letter to General Melville F. R. S. in the *Philoſoph. Tranſactions*, *V.* lxxx, *p.* 346.

Great Britain had numbered among the friendly powers, and whoſe ſubjects certainly derived a principal part of their commercial emoluments from the trade of this country, now took it upon her to dictate a new code of maritime laws, very unfriendly to the intereſts and power of Great Britain, and, in ſhort, to aſſert the empire of the ſea.

The empreſs having previouſly ſecured the concurrence of her neighbours (for ſhe was not willing to expoſe herſelf ſingly to the reſentment of Great Britain, however encumbered already with powerful enemies) iſſued a declaration (February 26th) addreſſed to the courts of London, Verſailles, and Madrid *, wherein, after the uſual preliminary profeſſions of juſtice, equity, and moderation, her ſtrict regard for the rights of neutrality and the liberty of commerce, ſhe complained, that her ſubjects had been often moleſted in their navigation by the ſhips of the belligerent powers †; and ſhe proceeded to lay before all Europe the principles adopted by her, which ſhe found 'contained in the laws of 'the primitive people,' and are compriſed in the following points.

I) That neutral ſhips ſhall enjoy a free navigation, even from port to port, and on the coaſts, of the belligerent powers.

II) That all effects, belonging to the ſubjects of the ſaid belligerent powers, ſhall be looked upon as free onboard ſuch neutral ſhips, except only ſuch goods as are ſtipulated to be contraband.

III) That her Imperial Majeſty, for the proper underſtanding of this, refers to the articles X and XI of her treaty of commerce with Great Britain ‡, extending her obligations to all the other belligerent powers.

IV) That in order to determine what characterizes a port blocked up, that denomination ſhall not be granted, but to ſuch places, before which there are actually a number of enemy's ſhips ſtationed near enough to make its entry dangerous.

V) That theſe principles ſhall ſerve as rules in the judicial proceedings and ſentences upon the legality of prizes.

And then, after announcing, that ſhe had ordered a conſiderable part of her naval forces to protect the honour of her flag, and the ſecurity of the commerce and navigation of her ſubjects, againſt whomſoever, without, however, deviating from the ſtricteſt neutrality, moderation, and impartiality, ſhe concluded by inviting the belligerent powers to contribute to the accompliſhment of her ſalutary views, and to give inſtructions to their courts of admiralty and commanders, conformable to the above principles 'drawn from the primitive codes of peoples.'

The new code of maritime laws was ſpeedily communicated to all the courts of Europe. It was greatly applauded by the kings of France and

* It is not unreaſonable to ſuppoſe, that it was preconcerted with the courts of Verſailles and Madrid, and probably alſo with the Dutch.

† We muſt ſuppoſe, that ſhe only meaned, that they were examined. It was declared in parliament, that not a ſingle Ruſſian ſhip had ever been detained by any of our cruiſers.

‡ For theſe articles ſee the account given of that treaty in p. 449.

Spain; and a civil anſwer, with profeſſions of friendſhip, was returned by the king of Great Britain. The king of Denmark ſent declarations to the courts of London, Verſailles, and Madrid, wherein he adopted almoſt the very words uſed by the empreſs: and the king of Sweden ſent a ſimilar declaration to the ſame courts, and alſo, in concert with the empreſs, improved the plan of an alliance comprehending the three northern powers, and inviting the acceſſion of all others, the operations of which, they declared, were to be confined to the ſea, and were to be enforced againſt all nations, who ſhould preſume to violate the articles agreed upon by the contracting powers, who immediately put in commiſſion a very reſpectable fleet conſiſting of above eighty ſhips of war. Such was the commencement of the ARMED NEUTRALITY, which henceforward detached a naval force to protect each fleet of the merchant ſhips belonging to the powers united in the confederacy. And it was not long before a new phœnomenon appeared on the ſouth coaſt of England. A Ruſſian ſquadron of five ſhips of the line and a frigate actually arrived in the Channel, in order to give efficacy to the regulations of the empreſs and her allies, or, indeed, to rule the Britiſh ſea.

The Dutch muſt have been very well pleaſed to behold theſe proceedings of the northern powers, as they were at leaſt as much intereſted in the object of their alliance as any of them; yet, ſuch is the characteriſtic tardineſs of their reſolutions, that they did not accede to the armed neutrality till the 20th of November.

The treaty between the American ſtates and the Dutch, ſigned in September 1778, which had ever ſince been moſt cautiouſly kept ſecret, was accidentally diſcovered by the capture of an American veſſel, (September 1780) onboard which Mr. Laurens, late preſident of the congreſs, had taken his paſſage in the quality of ambaſſador to the States-general. A ſtrong memorial was thereupon given in to the States-general by the Britiſh ambaſſador (November 10th), demanding that an exemplary puniſhment ſhould be inflicted on the penſionary Van-Berkel and his accomplices, as diſturbers of the public peace, and violators of the rights of nations. But the States-general being in no hurry to comply with the ambaſſador's demand, the Britiſh government immediately determined on hoſtilities; and a manifeſto was publiſhed (December 20th), which, after charging them with many acts of enmity, gave notice, that 'ſuch vigorous meaſures, as the occaſion fully juſti-'fies,' ſhould immediately be purſued. Accordingly commiſſions of repriſals againſt the Dutch were iſſued at the ſame time. All their veſſels in our harbours were detained: and in a few days, many of their ſhips, unappriſed of the commencement of hoſtilities, were taken in the adjacent narrow ſeas.

Thus was Great Britain involved in hoſtilities with no leſs than four great maritime powers, each one of whom poſſeſſed a greater marine

force than any other nation in the world unconnected with the war; while even thoſe called neutral nations kept up a very conſiderable navy with deſigns at beſt not friendly to Great Britain. And all this formidable combination (for ſuch it may be juſtly called) of all the ſhips of the Ocean did not ſhake the maritime power of this one iſland.

Mr. Alexander Fordyce, in a petition to the lords of the treaſury, repreſented, that he had invented a method of extracting from ſea and rock ſalt a marine acid and a mineral or foſſile alkali of the nature of barilla, fit for the purpoſes of ſoap-makers, bleachers, calico-printers, and glaſs-makers: that he had eſtabliſhed a manufacture at South Shields, and propoſed to eſtabliſh another on the weſt coaſt of England, if government would exempt him from the very heavy duty payable on ſalt, for which he adduced ſeveral precedents in ſimilar caſes. But he alleged, that it would be utterly impoſſible to carry it on, if the ſalt, of which three tuns are expended in procuring one tun of pure alkali, is loaded with a duty of 800 per cent above the price of ſalt in France, or even in Ireland, in both which countries the price of labour is much lower than in England. He ſtated the value of foreign alkali annually conſumed in the manufactures of England and Ireland at £400,000 *, beſides what is expended in Scotland, and was confident, that the whole of that ſum might be ſaved to the kingdom by enabling him to carry on his works free of the duty; but that the whole advantage muſt be utterly loſt, if the exemption is denied to him, as he muſt be ruined, if he were to perſiſt in it on ſuch diſadvantageous terms.

In the year 1712 the port of Harwich had only *three* fiſhing ſmacks of about 30 or 40 tuns burthen, carrying in all about 20 men and boys. In a few years after the perſevering exertions of Richard Orlibar, the owner and maſter of one of them, in extending his voyages to the Cromar and Dogger banks, encouraged them to attempt to come in for a ſhare with the Dutch in the ſupply of freſh fiſh at the London market. About the year 1770, by means of an Engliſhman who had been in the Dutch fiſhery, they acquired the method of uſing long lines in the winter. By the ſucceſs attending theſe improvements the fiſhing ſmacks of Harwich gradually increaſed in number and ſize; and this year there were *ſeventy-two* of from 45 to 55 tuns, carrying on an average 4 men and 5 or 6 apprentices each †. It is computed that they ſupply the metropolis with about 2,000 tuns weight of cod, haddocks, whitings, holibut, ſkate, and coal-fiſh, freſh or ſalted. They complain of the reſtrictions and duties upon ſalt, which frequently oblige them to throw away their fiſh rather than cure them, and of the charges at

* In the cuſtom-houſe books the value is ſtated to be £350,000; and it pays on entry a duty of about £11,116.

† The fiſhery declined from the year 1780; and in 1785 the number of ſmacks was reduced to 58.

the coaſt-office in London. The Dutch rival them in the ſupply of the London market with 40 or 50 veſſels from 30 to 70 tuns, and by long experience they have attained the art of feeding the market with ſuch nice and ſparing exactneſs, as enables them to keep up a continual exorbitant price.

There belonged this year to all the ports of England -	6,689	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	534,512 tuns,
and of Scotland	1,493	- - -	84,341
Total -	8,182	- - -	618,853

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	5,170	574,934	2,015	228,496	7,185	803,430
Outward -	7,443	731,026	1,395	154,111	8,838	885,137

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year,

was from the cuſtom-houſe in London -	£2,712,920	8	0
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh -	11,000	0	0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain	£2,723,920	8	0

There was no money coined this year.

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1779 to Chriſtmas 1780 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£21,689 0 7		£195,907 14 0	
Denmark, &c.	86,731 4 4	£24,842 8 10	156,125 19 6	£22,125 2 6
East country	299,832 4 9		60,285 18 3	
East-India	970,726 9 7		1,116,341 11 4	
Flanders	873,160 12 11		1,535,849 4 10	
France	4,283 4 3		5,744 0 0	
Germany	685,110 5 0	10,423 8 1	1,017,820 2 7	11,513 4 3
Greenland	38,158 17 8	1,440 0 0	165 0 0	
Holland	643,327 15 3	117,095 10 1	1,151,064 14 0	95,239 1 2
Ireland	1,549,387 11 3	194,030 6 5	1,930,338 7 4	298,046 4 3
Mann	13,970 3 6	2,734 15 7	20,194 8 6	884 5 3
Italy	80,405 6 3	1,704 10 2	312,600 3 2	3,437 9 0
Madeira	2,612 5 4		51,907 15 5	
Poland		11,225 14 1		904 11 8
Prussia		7,214 9 6		73 0 0
Portugal	522,893 18 2	28,608 15 1	459,673 16 10	1,520 18 7
Russia	1,150,429 12 11	203,423 8 5	161,031 10 5	7,098 19 4
Spain	86,398 9 4	469 19 3		
Straits	1,662 19 10		8,532 0 3	
Gibraltar		46 5 5	46,836 17 7	651 17 4
Sweden	144,180 17 1	21,194 0 6	49,678 10 5	1,270 13 1
Turkey	2,463 6 6		1,797 11 7	
Venice	85,526 17 7		28,864 10 11	
Guernsey, &c.	130,867 7 3	3,808 8 4	70,037 10 2	1,485 17 4
America in general		83,913 13 9		254,386 0 11
Hudson's bay	15,017 10 4		3,622 10 4	
Newfoundland	100,257 4 5		102,640 13 6	
Quebec	3,498 3 4		486,419 17 1	
Nova Scotia	777 11 6		244,158 6 4	
New England	32 2 7			
New York	15,532 9 3		496,602 7 5	
Pennsylvania	36 19 4			
Carolina	708 4 0		236,940 16 2	
Georgia	2,251 6 4		91,888 4 8	
Florida	16,486 8 0		54,760 13 2	
West-Indies in general		165,421 4 2		296,357 14 2
Antigua	57,120 5 8		106,703 19 3	
Barbados	120,384 1 6		254,847 18 5	
Bermuda	1,229 13 10		15,556 18 9	
Grenada	25,063 4 7			
Jamaica	1,541,575 3 11		728,659 10 11	
Montserrat	44,696 1 2		11,075 4 5	
Nevis	45,796 2 8		17,745 3 2	
St. Chriſtophers	323,445 5 5		207,562 14 8	
St. Vincents	7 4 4			
Tobago	78,927 5 3		27,916 11 0	
Tortola	49,023 6 5		25,379 4 9	
New Providence	400 8 4			
Bay of Honduras	14 1 0			
Musquito shore	1,527 3 0			
St. Croix			152 7 3	
St. Euſtathius	7,688 13 1		118,249 17 8	
Curaçao			1,760 7 6	
St. Lucia	137,200 19 3		53,977 13 6	
Foreign West-Indies		25,130 2 6		7,044 4 0
Northern fiſhery	525 14 9			
Southern fiſhery	1,798 2 6			
	9,983,838 5 1		11,667,417 8 0	
Prize goods	828,401 2 8		929,721 1 8	
Imp. and exp. of England	10,812,239 7 9		12,696,138 9 8	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	902,727 0 2	902,727 0 2	1,002,039 2 10	1,002,039 2 10
Total, Great Britain	11,714,966 7 11		13,698,177 12 6	

The foreign trade in corn is by ſome thought the moſt important of any, as producing great ſums, which are acquired wholely from the fertility of the earth and the labour of the people; while others conſider any attempts to extend it beyond the natural limits, which are regulated by the abundance of one country and the deficiency of another, as prejudicial to the general intereſts of both the exporting and importing countries. As it is at any rate an object of conſiderable importance, and that in more than one point of view, I ſhall here exhibit the progreſs of this very precarious trade in tables of the quantities of grain exported and imported ſince the commencement of the corn regiſter, which are taken from accounts made up in the cuſtom-houſe by order of parliament.

		Exported from ENGLAND.			Exported from SCOTLAND.		Imported into ENGLAND.		Imported into SCOTLAND.	
		British, quarters.	Foreign, quarters.	Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d	British, quarters.	Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d	Quarters.	Duties received. £ s d	Quarters.	Duties received. £ s d
1771	Wheat and flour	10,080					2,509		2	
	Barley and malt	31,160			203		225			547 8 11
	Oats and oatmeal	23,364	Nil	6,170 7 6	11,80[illegible]		198,072		14,255	
	Beans	13,345			3		67			
	Peas	3,701			3	Nil	64	13,170 2 1		
	Barley and bear				2,82[illegible]					
	Bear and meal				1[illegible]					
	Rye						2,179			
	Indian corn						3			
1772	Wheat and flour	6,959					23,134		2,340	
	Barley and malt	13,789					2,107		961	
	Oats and oatmeal	23,511	Nil	Nil	87		70,542		36,277	
	Beans	13,321				Nil	469			
	Peas	3,775			242		17	2,393 6 10	4	1,372 14 11
	Barley and bear									
	Rye						4,799			
	Indian corn						3			
	Buck-wheat						1		1	
1773	Wheat and flour	7,637					50,312		6,545	
	Barley and malt	2,445					51,221			
	Oats and oatmeal	18,671	Nil	Nil	100		234,360		95,088	
	Beans	10,733			18	Nil	49,838		4,002	Duty free
	Peas	4,430					3,254	Duty free	4,002	
	Barley and bear				30				12,695	
	Rye						9,253		2	
	Indian corn						6,322			
	Buck-wheat						53			
1774	Wheat and flour	15,171	* 757				269,235		19,914	
	Rye	1,434	820				41,427			
	Barley and malt	2,416					155,148			
	Oats and oatmeal	16,286	25	5,961 12 0	122		312,908	12,379 4 3	86,591	
	Beans	9,443	797		9		16,401		2,505	1,336 11 8
	Peas	3,211	107			61 11 10	2,780		2,708	
	Indian corn		1,880				5,945			
	Buck-wheat		50						4	
	Barley and bear				495				16,360	

* When foreign grain is imported, and not ſold, it is permitted by act of parliament to be warehoused without paying duty; and if exported again, it is here arranged under the title of *foreign* to diſtinguiſh it from *Britiſh*.

		Exported from ENGLAND.			Exported from SCOTLAND.		Imported into ENGLAND.		Imported into SCOTLAND.	
		British, quarters	Foreign, quarters.	Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d	British, quarters.	Bounties and drawbacks paid. £ s d	Quarters.	Duties received. £ s d	Quarters.	Duties received. £ s d
1775	Wheat and flour	28,348	62,640	drawbacks	40		544,641		16,347	
	Rye	2,471	251				33,574			
	Barley and malt	45,454	5,040	1,798 16 8	20		126,332		13,119	1,355 1 5
	Oats and oatmeal	22,593	3,773		119	Nil	283,827	18,442 18 2	100,115	
	Beans	14,075	343	bounties	3		29,862		1,657	
	Peas	4,717	212	7,842 10 11			11,275		1,658	
	Indian corn		4,323				9,638			
1776	Wheat and flour	174,940	32,467	drawbacks	3,247		20,148		430	
	Rye	10,369	630				3,415			
	Barley and malt	129,104	2,160	786 8 0	422	bounties	8,020	3,658 5 5	479	30 12 7
	Oats and oatmeal	21,930	8,686		4,365	1,322 13 9	373,707		4,859	
	Beans	33,338	7,006	bounties	543		19,055			
	Peas	6,562	8,043	50,925 7 2	543		19,776		12	
	Indian corn		1,957							
	Barley and bear				4,428					
1777	Wheat and flour	79,120	5,914	drawbacks	2,652		233,069		254	
	Rye	719	227				18,454			0 14 9
	Barley and malt	132,513	479	102 1 10	3,645	bounties	7,981			
	Oats and oatmeal	16,874	12,507		7,233	2,426 15 10	366,155		291	
	Beans	22,449	7,492	bounties	432		35,127	8,835 13 9		
	Peas	6,929	6,742	43,250 0 7	422		28,702			
	Indian corn		8							
	Barley and bear				6,088					
	Buck-wheat						10			
1778	Wheat and flour	124,698	13,077	drawbacks	3,295		106,394			
	Rye	1,089	17				9,327			
	Barley and malt	100,820	1,391	244 8 6	924	bounties	42,514		200	14 3 9
	Oats and oatmeal	20,810	8,043		27,690	3,704 11 6	199,680	4,890 5 7	1,490	
	Beans	17,787	3,962	bounties	653		30,165			
	Peas	9,399	6,221	40,101 16 3	653		27,768			
	Barley and bear				795					
1779	Wheat and wheat meal	155,003	7,781		256		3,508			
	Wheat flour	48,186	1,795	drawbacks	9,239		1,103		425	
	Rye	3,162	37	97 1 2			1,693			
	Barley	4,948	2,583			bounties	7,085			
	Malt	74,287			3,022	3,157 0 0		2,849 18 7		139 18 2
	Oats	11,291	5,635	bounties	219		331,858		15,984	
	Oatmeal	2,475	29	51,349 2 6	2,638		669			
	Beans	19,075	6,384		897		14,591			
	Peas	13,130	5,106				29,154			
	Barley and bear				937					
1780	Wheat	63,240	7,067		773		1,662			
	Wheat flour	136,939	932	drawbacks	15,101		1,378		873	
	Rye	6,305		29 17 1						
	Barley	32,956	2,407			bounties	352			
	Malt	135,077			2,415	7,232 3 6				
	Oats	8,904	8,726	bounties	3,330		189,964	10,067 0 11	4,667	60 11 0
	Oatmeal	916	449	70,483 13 5	4,666		612			
	Peas and beans	16,071	5,488		1,380		25,125			
	Barley and bear				18,706					
	Biscuit, cwt.				12,613				284	

1781—In the beginning of the year 1781 Mr. Necker, director-general of the finances of France, laid before the king his celebrated work, entitled '*Compte rendu au roi*,' being an account of his administration of the finances of that kingdom.

In the later end of the year 1776 that great financier and honeſt ſtateſman was placed at the head of the finances of France, which he found greatly deranged, the receipts of the treaſury being twenty-four millions of livres (above one million ſterling) ſhort of the ordinary expenditure *. In the following year the French were buſily preparing for war; and in the year 1778 they were actually engaged in it. Notwithſtanding the extraordinary expenſes unavoidable in ſuch a ſtate of affairs, Mr. Necker found means to make the king ſenſible of the force of that greateſt of all maxims of finance, that ECONOMY IS THE SUREST SOURCE OF ABUNDANCE †. And, in conſequence of the adoption of ſo ſalutary a maxim, the French revenue, from being unequal to the expenditure in time of peace, was ſo greatly improved, that in the year 1780, while war was raging, there was an exceſs of 10,200,000 livres above the expenditure, [*Compte rendu*, *p.* 10] which of courſe was productive of great advantages in the negotiation of loans, the value of the funds, &c.

Such a ſyſtem of economy, if perſevered in, would have raiſed the finances of the kingdom to a very high pitch of proſperity and credit. The effects of it were ſo important, that ſome of our ſtateſmen, in their ſpeeches in parliament, profeſſed their apprehenſions of greater danger to this country from the improved ſtate of the finances, than from the efforts of the armies and fleets, of France. But, if we were in any danger from the reformation of the French finances, it was not probable that it would laſt long. For the man, who ſets himſelf to check corruption, and to prevent peculation, muſt ſoon fall a victim to the intereſted malice of ſuch a hoſt of peculators, of corrupters and corrupted, as he incenſes againſt himſelf by his virtuous endeavours to ſerve the country, to which he has devoted the ſervices and the ſtudies of his life. As a reward for rendering the greateſt ſervice to the nation, Mr. Necker was diſmiſſed from his office; and the revenue reverted to its former ſtate of corruption and peculation.

The ſtate of the commerce, current money, and population, of France, as given by Mr. Necker, may be conſidered as more immediately connected with the nature of this work. The annual average of the imports he ſtates at 230 millions, and that of the exports at 300 millions, of livres. He eſtimates the current money of the king-

* Mr. Necker [*p.* 27] ſtates the annual charge under the name of penſions only (and there were many gratuitous payments under other names) at twenty-eight millions of livres: and he doubts if all the penſions given by all the other ſovereigns of Europe amount to half the ſum.

† 'Non intelligunt homines, quam magnum 'vectigal ſit parſimonia,' ſays Cicero, a great ſtateſman of antiquity.

dom to be two thouſand millions of livres *(above eighty-ſeven millions ſterling)* in coin * ; and the yearly coinage of money to be forty or fifty millions of livres. And he eſtimates the population at twenty-four millions of ſouls. [*Compte rendu, pp.* 54, 68, 74.]

The war with the Dutch appears to have ſunk the price of the three-per-cent conſolidated funds, which ſince the commencement of the war with Spain were between 60 and 62, down to 57¾. The depreſſion in the other branches of the funds was, as uſual, in proportion to that in the three-per-cents.

The Dutch iſland of S^t^. Euſtathius (called by ſeafaring people Statia) is not above ſix miles long. It conſiſts of two hills of rock with very little ſoil upon them, and has not a ſingle rivulet or ſpring of freſh water; ſo that it is not worth occupying for any purpoſe of cultivation† or comfortable reſidence. Yet the wonderful induſtry, and commercial ſpirit of the Dutch have made it a moſt valuable poſſeſſion, and of at leaſt as much importance as any other of the windward iſlands in the Weſt-Indies. By giving the greateſt poſſible accommodation to all ſtrangers, of whatever nation, this barren iſland ſoon became an univerſal repoſitory for the produce and manufactures of every quarter of the globe: and, as the Dutch were not ſo often engaged in hoſtilities as the other maritime powers of Europe, the ſeaſon of war has at all times been their peculiar and richeſt harveſt. There the Americans with their cargoes of proviſions, tobacco, lumber, and naval ſtores, the French with their wines, brandies, and manufactures, the Britiſh with their innumerable manufactures, and the merchants and planters of almoſt all the neighbouring iſlands, Spaniſh, French, &c. flying with their produce to elude the graſp of monopoly, or ſhun the dangers of warfare, as well as the Dutch, whoſe ſtores were filled with every deſcription of the commodities and manufactures of all the world, met as in a great fair, and without any reſtraint, or taking the ſmalleſt concern in the quarrels in which their reſpective ſovereigns might happen to be engaged, tranſacted their ſales and purchaſes in this truely *free port* and general magazine of all nations. Hence an iſland, which produces almoſt nothing, uſed to ſhip more produce for Europe than many of the fertile ſugar

* Necker [p. 68] ſays, ' Il n'eſt aucune conquete, il n'eſt aucune *alliance*, qui puiſſe valoir a ' votre Majeſté ce qu'elle pourra tirer un jour du ' developpement de ſes propres forces. L'eſſor de ' l'agriculture et de l'induſtrie par la bonne repartition des impots, l'eſſor du credit par la ſage ' adminiſtration des finances, voila tout ce qui ' manque a la puiſſance d'un royaume, qui contient vingt-quatre millions d'ames, et deux mil' liards d'argent monnoyé.' A prodigious ſum! but the character of the man does not allow us to impute any part of it to gaſconade. This ſentence, containing ſo much wiſdom in ſo few words, was worthy of being tranſcribed entire. If the king, to whom it was addreſſed, had regulated his conduct by ſuch maxims, his country might then have enjoyed peace with a moſt flouriſhing commerce; and he might have been ſtill living and reigning. M. de la Place, and ſome other calculators, about the ſame time calculated the population of France at conſiderably above twenty-five millions. [*Mem. de l'academie, A. D.* 1783, *p.* 693.]

† There are, however, two or three plantations in the valley between the two hills, which produce a ſmall quantity of ſugar.

colonies in its neighbourhood; a prodigious ſtream of wealth flowed in upon the Dutch, through whoſe agency moſt of the buſineſs was tranſacted; and money was plentier there than in any other of the Weſt-India iſlands.

The great accommodation, which the trade of S^t. Euſtathius afforded to the enemies of Great Britain, pointed it out as the firſt object to be attacked by the Britiſh forces after the commencement of hoſtilities againſt the Dutch. And accordingly Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan with a great force inveſted the iſland (February 3^d), which, being totally unprepared with any means of defence, was immediately ſurrendered at diſcretion. Above 150 veſſels, many of them richly loaded, were found in the bay, beſides a Dutch frigate of 38 guns, and five veſſels of from 14 to 26 guns. The ſtores on the iſland were full of produce and goods of all kinds; and the very beach was covered with hogſheads of ſugar and tobacco. Every ſpecies of property found on the iſland, whomſoever it belonged to, was made prize of, to the amount, as was eſtimated, of above three millions ſterling; a meaſure which afterwards became the ſubject of ſevere animadverſion in parliament. The conquerors, by keeping the Dutch flag flying, entrapped 17 more veſſels, which quietly and ſecurely ſailed into their poſſeſſion. Moreover, having learned that a rich fleet of about 30 large ſhips had ſailed for Europe under the convoy of a Dutch ſhip of 60 guns only two days before their arrival, the admiral diſpatched Captain Reynolds with three ſhips in purſuit of them, who next day (February 4^th) came up with them, and took the Dutch ſhip of war with every one of her convoy. At the ſame time three large ſhips from Amſterdam with naval ſtores of all kinds were alſo taken by the fleet, and ſent to the royal dock-yard at Antigua.

When the Britiſh forces arrived off S^t. Euſtathius, a detachment was ſent to reduce the Dutch iſland of Saba (the inhabitants of which had little concern either in commerce or warfare, being gardeners and planters of cotton) and the iſland of S^t. Martin's alſo belonging to the Dutch; and both ſurrendered at diſcretion (February 5^th).

March 14^th—The Dutch continental colonies of Demararay and Iſſequibo (called by ſeamen Iſacape) on the coaſt of South America, were alſo reduced to the dominion of Great Britain by Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan. All the floating property *, and the property of the Dutch Weſt-India company, were ſeized; but the inhabitants of theſe colonies were more favourably treated than thoſe of S^t. Euſtathius, and permitted to retain their property on the land. Berbicia, another

* A conſiderable number of Dutch merchant ſhips had been taken by ſome Britiſh privateers in the river Demararay before the capture of the colony; and as they had no commiſſions to act againſt the Dutch, their prizes became a *droit* of the admiralty.

Dutch ſettlement on the ſame coaſt, was alſo taken, together with ſeveral veſſels, by two privateers.

Admiral Rodney, from the information of the Dutch coloniſts, ſtated the annual produce of Demararay and Iſſequibo to be 10,000 hogſheads of ſugar, and rum in proportion; 5,000,000 pounds of coffee; 800,000 pounds of cotton; beſides cacao and indigo: and he gave it as his opinion, that in the hands of Great Britain they might ſoon be brought to produce a vaſt deal more, and might employ more ſhips, and yield more revenue, than all the Britiſh Weſt-India iſlands.

This rapid career of conqueſts at the commencement of the war with the Dutch was moſt diſtreſſing to all the enemies of Great Britain, who uſed to find every thing neceſſary for carrying on their warlike operations at S^t. Euſtathius: and it was abſolutely ruinous to the Dutch, and alſo to vaſt numbers of merchants in the Weſt-Indies belonging to the other nations concerned in the war, as it overturned the whole ſyſtem of their commerce in that quarter of the world.

March 16^th.—The ſmall French iſland of S^t. Bartholemew was alſo reduced by the Britiſh forces at the ſame time. It was of little conſequence in a commercial view, (its only produce being a ſmall quantity of cotton) unleſs in depriving the French privateers of the ſhelter, which, according to Admiral Rodney's diſpatches to government, they uſed to find there.

The whole property of every kind found upon the iſland of S^t. Euſtathius having been ſeized upon the ſurrender of it, it was ſold by order of the admiral and general by public auction, which commenced on the 15^th of March, and laſted till the beginning of May, advertiſement having been previouſly made in the neighbouring iſlands, that all purchaſers ſhould have whatever they bought properly ſecured to them, and ſhould be allowed to ſhip their goods either in Britiſh or neutral bottoms, and either for Britiſh or neutral ports. It was aſſerted, that the goods were ſold for about one fourth of their value; and Mr. Burke alleged in the houſe of commons, that by means of thoſe ſales the French and Americans were ſupplied with ſtores from S^t. Euſtathius fifty per cent cheaper than they could formerly have had them from the Dutch, and that thereby the profeſſed purpoſe of the rigorous proceedings againſt the inhabitants of the iſland was directly counteracted.

The merchants of S^t. Chriſtophers, as ſoon as they heard of the indiſcriminate confiſcation of private property in S^t. Euſtathius, much of which belonged to themſelves as proprietors or conſignees, had preſented a memorial to the two commanders, reclaiming their property; which being refuſed, they tranſmitted by the hands of Mr. Glanville, the ſolicitor-general of their iſland, a ſecond very ſtrong memorial and remonſtrance, 'for themſelves, and as agents and factors for many of 'the moſt commercial houſes in Great Britain and Ireland,' wherein

they repreſented, that the property belonging to themſelves and their correſpondents in Great Britain, for whom they were agents, which was fairly bought under the ſanction of acts of parliament, was forcibly taken from them, without permitting them even to mark or number the packages, or to know in what veſſels they were to be ſhipped, while inſurances were already made at home on ſhips, which were engaged to carry the goods to Great Britain. They therefor gave notice to the commanders, that they ſhould hold them accountable for all damages to be ſuſtained in conſequence of the detention of their property and the annullment of their inſurances, and ſhould ſeek redreſs for their damages from the laws of their country: and they demanded permiſſion for their partners and factors at S^t. Euſtathius to aſcertain the amount of their goods ſhipped off under their authority. They alſo warned their excellencies of the fatal conſequences of ſetting ſuch an example to their enemies, who by the fate of war might become maſters of the Britiſh iſlands; that the conſequence of ſuch a mode of warfare muſt be the ruin, not only of every one concerned in the iſlands, but alſo of their generous creditors at home, who were ſo liberally ſupporting the expenſe of the war by ſubſcriptions. And they held up as a warning and example to them the conduct of the comte d'Eſtaing at Grenada, who by iſſuing edicts to forbid the payment of debts due in Great Britain, though he ſeized no private property, drew upon himſelf the univerſal deteſtation of the enlightened people of France, in conſequence of whoſe remonſtrances, carried to the throne of an abſolute monarch, his conduct was ſeverely reprobated, his edicts were reſcinded, and the Britiſh inhabitants of Grenada were put upon the ſame footing with the French ſubjects.

Admiral Rodney gave a very brief anſwer, ſignifying, that he had not leiſure to peruſe the memorial; that he was ſurpriſed that Britiſh ſubjects ſhould lodge their property in an iſland, where, they muſt know, it was to be applied to the ſervice of the enemies of their country; and that he conſidered every thing on the iſland as Dutch, and was firmly reſolved to treat it as Dutch.

April 6^th—The merchants in Britain were too deeply intereſted in the property ſeized at S^t. Euſtathius to ſit down unconcerned ſpectators of the event. They commenced actions againſt the commanders *, and they alſo preſented a petition to the king in the following words †.

* After litigations, protracted through ſeveral years, the admiral and general were caſt in many ſuits for heavy ſums.

† I by no means approve of a large book, and very ſeldom load my work with long tranſcripts: but every ſentence of this petition is ſo full of commercial argument and commercial facts, that I thought, I could not do juſtice to it, or to the reader, without giving it entire.

' TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

' *The petition of the Weſt-India planters and merchants moſt humbly ſheweth,*

' That your petitioners have very conſiderable property, and debts ' due to them in the ſeveral iſlands in the Weſt-Indies ſubject to the ' crown of Great Britain, as alſo in the iſlands of Grenada, the Grena- ' dines, Dominica, and S^t. Vincent, which have in the courſe of the ' preſent hoſtilities fallen under the dominion of France.

' That they have always conceived it to be a maxim among civilized ' nations, eſtabliſhed in humanity and ſound policy, ' that war ſhould " be carried on with the leaſt poſſible injury to private property found " in any countries or towns, which may be invaded or conquered;' the ' happy effects of which wiſe principle your petitioners have hitherto ' experienced in the ſecurity of their eſtates and effects from rapine ' and plunder, which have been reciprocally diſcountenanced by the ' governors in the Weſt-Indies, as ruinous to individuals, and pro- ' ductive of no deciſive advantage to any of the ſovereign ſtates con- ' cerned.

' Your petitioners are therefor ſeriouſly alarmed at the general ſeiz- ' ure, made by the commanders of your Majeſty's ſea and land forces, ' of goods, merchandize, and ſpecie, found in the iſlands of S^t. Euſta- ' tius and S^t. Martin, on their ſurrendering without reſiſtance, and at ' diſcretion, to the ſaid commanders; humbly conceiving, that the in- ' habitants of places which ſubmit to the will, and ſurrender themſelves ' to the diſcretion, of an invading enemy, immediately upon ſuch ſub- ' miſſion become the ſubjects of that ſovereign, or ſtate, to whom the ' victorious army belongs; and conſequently by their allegiance are ' entitled to ſecurity in their perſons and property; it being as repug- ' nant to policy as humanity to permit one claſs of ſubjects to plunder ' another, the trader having an equal claim with the ſoldier to the pro- ' tection of government.

' Your petitioners humbly beg leave to repreſent to your Majeſty, ' that thoſe Dutch iſlands did belong to a ſovereign ſtate, by whoſe au- ' thority and permiſſion they were made, and have ever ſince been, *free ports*; and that they have been recognized as ſuch by Great Britain ' and all the other maritime powers of Europe, who have poſſeſſions in ' the Weſt-Indies.

' That Great Britain, in particular, has never interdicted, or pro- ' hibited, to her ſubjects the trade of thoſe Dutch iſlands, but has on ' the contrary permitted the exportation of great quantities of various ' articles of goods of the growth, produce, and manufacture of this ' country, which have been regularly, and openly, entered out at the ' ſeveral ports of this kingdom for the ſaid Dutch iſlands.

'That an act * was paſſed laſt ſeſſion of parliament for removing any 'legal doubts ariſing out of the Navigation act, reſpecting the importa- 'tion of tobacco of the growth of the colonies in North America, 'which, having eſcaped Britiſh capture, had been imported from the 'colonies in rebellion into thoſe Dutch iſlands, declaring and enacting, "that ſuch tobacco might be legally imported from thoſe, or any other "neutral iſlands, into any Britiſh iſland, and from thence into Great "Britain;' by which act the trade to the ſaid iſlands of S^t. Euſtatius 'and S^t. Martin, which had always been in many reſpects legal, be- 'came an object of public encouragement, by being extended beyond 'what the ſtrict conſtruction of law ſeemed formerly to authorize.

'That ſince the paſſing the ſaid act, and even before, during the 'preſent rebellion, a great part of the tobacco, abſolutely neceſſary for 'the conſumption and revenue of Great Britain, has been imported 'through that channel to the manifeſt benefit of the navigation of this 'kingdom: for, if the market had not been ſupplied by thoſe means, 'there would have been an indiſpenſable neceſſity for admitting 'tobacco from Holland, after having been carried thither from thoſe 'iſlands in Dutch veſſels; and Great Britain would, conſequently, have 'been deprived of the profit ariſing from the long navigation of that 'bulky commodity.

'That ſince the commencement of the American rebellion the ſaid 'iſlands of S^t. Euſtatius and S^t. Martin have been frequently of the 'moſt eſſential ſervice to the Britiſh Leeward iſlands, particularly in 'the years 1777 and 1778, when the iſlands of Antigua and S^t. Chriſto- 'pher would have ſuffered all the miſeries of actual famine, had not 'they drawn from S^t. Euſtatius thoſe ſupplies which they formerly re- 'ceived from North America.

'That ſince the capture of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica, and 'S^t. Vincent, thoſe iſlands have been principally ſupplied with the 'ſeveral neceſſaries for their conſumption, and for the cultivation of 'their plantations, through the medium of S^t. Euſtatius, and that many 'Britiſh ſubjects, having property in thoſe captured iſlands, have been 'obliged to eſtabliſh houſes in the ſaid iſland of S^t. Euſtatius, for the 'expreſs purpoſe of ſupplying thoſe iſlands, and have ordered various 'articles to be ſhipped for S^t. Euſtatius from Great Britain, as well as 'from Holland †.

'That the great want of plantation ſtores and other neceſſaries in 'thoſe captured iſlands has alſo obliged many of the planters to ſhip 'from time to time a great part of the produce of their plantations 'to S^t. Euſtatius for the purpoſe of purchaſing ſuch plantation ſtores 'and neceſſaries.

* 20 *Geo. III, c.* 39.

† See the annual tables of imports and exports ſince the commencement of the war.

'That many of your Majeſty's faithful and loyal ſubjects, on the 'faith of Great Britain having recognized the trade, have ſettled as 'general traders in thoſe Dutch iſlands, and have conſiderable property 'in goods, merchandize, and money, in the ſaid iſlands; and that 'others of your Majeſty's moſt faithful and loyal ſubjects, as agents for 'the Dutch, as well as Britiſh, merchants in thoſe iſlands, have ſhipped 'conſiderable quantities of goods and merchandize on account of the 'ſaid merchants.

'That thoſe Dutch iſlands, particularly S^t. Euſtatius, have therefor 'been, and ought to be, conſidered as free ports, open to all the world, 'where the ſubjects of all ſtates in amity with Holland were equally 'welcome, where the goods imported by the hand of commerce were 'at open market, ready to be ſold to the beſt bidder, without favour 'and affection, without any partial, or political, attachment or predi-'lection to any of the powers at war, without regard to any other ob-'ject than that of mercantile profit, which is the ſpring and ſoul of all 'commerce whatever; and that the value of the ſaid iſlands to that 'ſovereign power to which they belonged, as well as to your Majeſty's 'ſubjects and other nations, conſiſted in their being univerſal open 'marts, and not in the inconſiderable production of their ſoil.

'Your petitioners humbly beg leave to repreſent to your Majeſty, 'that, as a very conſiderable part of the property found in thoſe Dutch 'iſlands muſt neceſſarily belong to many of your Majeſty's moſt faith-'ful and loyal ſubjects, from the cauſes above ſtated, ſo there are like-'wiſe others of your Majeſty's ſubjects reſiding in Great Britain and 'the Britiſh Leeward iſlands, who are large creditors of the Dutch and 'Britiſh merchants in thoſe Dutch iſlands, not only on account of goods 'and merchandize openly and avowedly ſhipped by them, as the agents 'of the ſaid merchants, but alſo in reſpect of dealings and engagements 'antecedent to, and unconnected with, the trade carried on by ſuch 'their debtors in thoſe iſlands.

'With reſpect to the property found in the ſaid iſlands belonging to 'the ſubjects of the ſtates of Holland, or any other of your Majeſty's 'enemies, your petitioners, having already ſtated what they humbly 'conceive to be the humane and political practice of war, feel them-'ſelves impelled by the principle of gratitude to preſent to your royal 'view the conduct of the commanders of the French king's forces, and 'of the court of France, in the caſe of the conqueſt of the iſlands of 'Grenada and the Grenadines.

'When the iſland of Grenada, after having made a zealous, but un-'ſucceſsful, defence againſt the enemy's force, ſurrendered at diſcre-'tion, there was no plunder allowed, except on the Hoſpital hill, which 'was taken by ſtorm, and where the ſmall effects, that were lodged, 'neceſſarily fell *in furore belli* to the firſt of the aſſailants who could lay

'their hands upon them. The goods and merchandize in the town of 'St. George in that iſland, to a very large amount, not merely in- 'tended for the uſe and conſumption of the iſland, but for the general 'market of the Weſt-Indies, remained untouched; and every ſpecies 'of property whatever was left inviolate, even the goods upon the keys 'and beach in various parts of the iſland.

'There were indeed certain ordinances iſſued by the French govern- 'or on taking poſſeſſion of the ſaid iſland, by which the produce of all 'plantations belonging to abſentees was to be ſequeſtered until a peace; 'and the payment of all debts due to your Majeſty's ſubjects, reſiding 'in any part of your Majeſty's dominions, was prohibited under pain 'of military execution. But, on the application of the parties inter- 'eſted to the court of France, thoſe ordinances were immediately 'revoked by his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and all perſons whatever, 'whether preſent or abſent, were ſecured in the full poſſeſſion of their 'eſtates and effects; his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, having been pleaſed 'at the ſame time to expreſs his diſapprobation of thoſe ordinances, "as tending to injure civil contracts, which are founded on the law of "nature, and which form the moſt ſacred bond of ſociety, being the "principal ſource of that reciprocal communication and intercourſe "ſubſiſting between the ſubjects of all nations; to which contracts, and "to private property in general, the practice of war, among civilized "ſtates, has ever had the moſt tender regard.'

'Your petitioners, likewiſe, with pleaſure reflect, that your Majeſty, 'in the very beginning of your reign, gave a ſtriking example of cle- 'mency upon the capture of Dominica, the inhabitants of which iſland 'were ſettled there againſt expreſs treaties, unacknowledged by any 'ſovereign, profeſſing neutrality, yet exerciſing hoſtilities againſt your 'Majeſty's ſubjects; and, when ſummoned to ſubmit to your Majeſty's 'arms, not only refuſed to ſurrender, but, provoking an aſſault, were 'reduced ſword in hand.—Yet by your Majeſty's wiſdom and gener- 'oſity, the inhabitants of that iſland were preſerved in the poſſeſſion 'of all their property.

'Your petitioners do not conceive, that thoſe defenceleſs Dutch 'iſlands were ſurpriſed, and taken poſſeſſion of, by your Majeſty's arms 'for the ſake of inglorious ſpoil, but merely with a view to great poli- 'tical objects in conducting the preſent hoſtilities againſt the combined 'enemies of Britain, by depriving them in future of the convenience 'and advantage of thoſe marts. They have ever conſidered Great 'Britain as priding herſelf in acts of generoſity and humanity, not leſs 'than in brilliant atchievements of valour in war: and they are con- 'fident, that your Majeſty will not permit the Britiſh name to be 'ſtained by a departure from that line of conduct, which has hitherto 'ſo peculiarly characterized this nation, and her ſacred regard to the 'rights of mankind.

'They beg leave to repeat to your Majeſty, that the confiſcation of 'private property in thoſe Dutch iſlands would grievouſly affect many 'of your Majeſty's moſt faithful and loyal ſubjects, who have traded 'there under the ſanction of our laws, or who are creditors of merch-'ants in the ſaid iſlands; and at the ſame time to ſtate to your 'Majeſty their apprehenſions, that ſuch a meaſure, ſo far as it would 'injure the property of the ſubjects of the enemy, muſt neceſſarily tend 'to increaſe the calamities of war, by exciting deſperate reſiſtance, by 'exaſperating our foes againſt the trading inhabitants of thoſe iſlands 'which may hereafter be obliged to ſubmit to their arms, and by 'eſtabliſhing a prædatory ſyſtem, deſtructive and ruinous in its con-'ſequences to individuals, and of no ſolid benefit to the ſeveral ſtates 'concerned.

'Your petitioners, therefor, do moſt humbly, but fervently, pray,
'that your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to take the premiſes
'into your ſerious conſideration, and remove the apprehenſions of
'your petitioners by adopting ſuch meaſures on the preſent
'occaſion, as to your Majeſty in your great wiſdom, juſtice, and
'clemency, ſhall ſeem meet.

'Signed by order, and in the name, and on the behalf, of the Weſt-
'India planters and merchants,

'WILLIAM CRICHTON,
'Chairman of the general meeting
'on this ſpecial buſineſs.'

'London, April 6, 1781.

The Portugueſe, after ſtrictly prohibiting the importation of cotton goods from Britain, now refuſed to admit woollen goods and printed linens from Ireland; a meaſure, which was ſuſpected by the Iriſh to have originated in England.

March 12th—The regulations concerning the admiſſion of prize goods into the kingdom being now extended to prizes taken from the Dutch, ſome others were enacted, reſpecting the ſale of, and duties upon, Eaſt-India goods condemned as prize in the port of London; for permitting the purchaſers of prize goods condemned abroad to import ſuch goods into this kingdom, as well as the captors, and for reducing the duties on foreign prize tobacco. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 5.]

The permiſſion to import Italian organzined ſilk was prolonged till the 25th of March 1782. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 6.]

The permiſſion to navigate merchant ſhips with foreigners for three fourths of their complement was alſo prolonged for the ſame time. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 11.]

March 22d—Twelve millions were raiſed this year for the ſervice of government by a loan, and £480,000 by a lottery. The terms of the loan were £150 in the three-per-cent conſolidated fund, and £25 in the

four-per-cent conſolidated fund, for every £100 paid in; with a privilege to the ſubſcribers of £1,000 to have four lottery tickets at £10 each.

By this bargain, to ſay nothing of the douceur (or in the jargon of ſtock-jobbing the *bonus)* of the lottery tickets, the real permanent intereſt payable for the money borrowed was *five and a half per cent*, beſides the charge for management; and the capital of the debt created, inſtead of *twelve millions*, was *twenty-one millions*, which may actually require *twenty-one millions* to cancell it. The terms of the loan were ſeverely animadverted upon in both houſes of parliament; and it was affirmed by ſome members, that the miniſter's friends were enabled to pocket nine or ten per cent on the ſums affixed to their names the very next day, without advancing one penny. Such high intereſt with government ſecurity evidently makes it extremely difficult, if not quite impoſſible, for individuals to borrow any money *upon legal intereſt*, either for the extenſion of commerce and manufactures, or the improvement of agriculture.

March 29th—The diſcounts, hitherto allowed on the duties payable on the importation of foreign goods, were now repealed; and additional duties were impoſed, of 1¼*d* on every pound of tobacco, and 4/8 on every 112 pounds of ſugar, together with a further charge of five per cent upon theſe additional duties. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 16.]

The additional five per cent was alſo extended to moſt of the exciſe duties. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 17.]

April 11th—Flax and flax-ſeed were allowed to be imported into Great Britain and Ireland in neutral veſſels from the 20th of April 1781 till the termination of the war.

The king of Pruſſia having joined his ſmall maritime force to the armed neutrality, which, upon his acceſſion to it, comprehended all the powers, whoſe dominions border on the Baltic ſea, a new article was thereupon added to their maritime code, declaring, that the Baltic ſea, on account of its inland and incloſed ſituation, ought to be preſerved free for the ſafe navigation of the ſhips of all nations, and that no warlike ſhips, belonging to the belligerent powers or their ſubjects, ſhould be permitted to enter it, with a view to commit hoſtilities againſt the ſubjects of any ſtate whatſoever. The king of Great Britain ſo far approved of the reſolution of the northern powers, as to iſſue a proclamation (April 21st), prohibiting all Britiſh ſhips of war and privateers from moleſting any veſſels in the Baltic ſea.

The freedom of navigation was a moſt important object to the nations ſituated on the ſhores of the Baltic, who were reaping ſuch a golden harveſt from the heavy expenſes of the belligerent powers, as they had never at any time enjoyed before. The oak foreſts of Great Britain are very from being ſufficient to ſupply the building yards in time of

war; France and Spain have almoſt no building timber; and Holland has none at all. Therefor almoſt all the oak timber conſumed in the fleets of the European belligerent powers, and alſo the maſts, yards, iron, hemp, and ſail-cloth, were brought from the countries bordering on the Baltic, where they were bought with ready money, the inhabitants of thoſe regions not being ſo far advanced in the improvements, or the corruptions, of civilization, as to require many of the fine manufactures or the luxuries of the more poliſhed nations of Europe *.

May 2d—A great number of veſſels loaded with the plunder of St. Euſtathius, which were on their way home under the convoy of four ſhips of war, were met by a French fleet, which took all the merchant ſhips except nine. The ſhips of war, which had onboard moſt of the treaſure, made their eſcape.

May 9th—Penſacola, the capital of our new province of Weſt-Florida, was beſieged by the Spaniſh governor of Louiſiana, and, after a gallant defence by Governor Cheſter and General Campbell, was obliged to ſurrender to the ſuperior force of the enemy, who granted the garriſon honourable terms, and treated them with great generoſity.

June 2d—The iſland of Tobago was attacked by the French forces commanded by the marquis de Bouillé and the comte de Graſſe. Governor Ferguſon and the planters, with the help of a few regular ſoldiers, and ſome ſailors, and a few negroes, the whole number in arms being only 427 men, made a gallant defence, which they kept up from the 23d of May to the 2d of June, when they ſurrendered the iſland to the very ſuperior force of the enemy †. The marquis, with his uſual generoſity, granted the inhabitants the ſame liberal terms he had granted to thoſe of Dominica. And thus was this fine iſland, after being brought from a wilderneſs to a ſtate of high cultivation by the efforts of Britiſh induſtry and capital, transferred to the dominion of France.

May 18th—The duties upon paper were repealed; and new duties, to be rated according to the value and ſize of the paper, were eſtabliſhed. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 24.]

The act of laſt ſeſſion, [*c.* 45] allowing the members of the Turkey company to import their goods in neutral bottoms, and laying a duty on cotton imported in ſuch veſſels, was prolonged till the end of the war. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 26.]

* The drain of money occaſioned by theſe importations was felt, for ſome years after the war, in France; and they were actually propoſing in the year 1784 to make a law for coining the ſilver plate belonging to private individuals into money, and to prohibit the waſte of gold in gilding and ornaments. The quantity of money ſent from Britain for the produce of thoſe countries, may be judged of by running the eye over the accounts of our imports and exports with Ruſſia, Sweden, Poland, and Pruſſia, or the countries comprehended under the name of the Eaſt country, during the war.

† A reflection was thrown out by Admiral Rodney in parliament, that the guns, he had ſent to Tobago in the preceding year, were allowed to lie unmounted. It ought to be remembered, however, that guns are of no uſe without men.

For the ſame reaſon the produce of the Portugueſe colonies was allowed to be imported in Portugueſe veſſels from Portugal, or from the iſlands of the Azores and Madeira. Wool of all ſorts, linen yarn, barilla, and jeſuit's bark, were alſo allowed to be imported in any neutral bottoms, on paying alien's duty, during the war. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 27.]

The following acts were continued for limited times, viz.

The free ports in Jamaica (thoſe of Dominica being ſhut) were continued open till 1st November 1787.

The free importation of ſago powder and vermicelli from the Britiſh colonies in America was continued till 1st December 1796.

The free importation of raw hides from Ireland and America was continued till 1st June 1786.

The commercial intercourſe with ſuch places in America, as were under the protection of the Britiſh arms, was prolonged till 1st June 1782.

The act for preventing frauds relating to the cuſtoms was prolonged till 29th September 1788.

The act to prevent the danger of infection by ſmuggled goods, and ſubjecting copper ore produced in the Britiſh colonies to the regulations provided for other enumerated commodities, was continued till 29th September 1788.

The act for encouraging the growth of coffee in the Britiſh colonies, except that part of it which relates to foreign coffee, was continued till 24th June 1788.

The act for preventing frauds, committed by bankrupts, was prolonged till 29th September 1785.

So much of the act for permitting the exportation of wheat, &c. to certain foreign ſettlements, as relates to the ſugar colonies, was continued till 1st May 1782.

The act prohibiting copper from being exported, or even carried along the coaſt, was continued till 1st April 1783.

The drawback allowed on rum, ſhipped as ſtores, was continued till 1st April 1783.

And the act for allowing a bounty on the exportation of corn in neutral veſſels was continued till 25th March 1782. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 29.]

Verdigris uſed formerly to be made nowhere in Europe but in the ſouth parts of France: but for ſome years paſt Meſſieurs Bindley and Maud had produced, from their works at Newham in Glouceſter-ſhire, verdigris, which upon trial by chymiſts, coach-painters, paper-ſtainers, hatters, and others, was found in all reſpects equal to the beſt French verdigris. In the year 1763 Mr. Bindley had received a premium of £50 from the patriotic ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, and alſo in 1764 another premium of £100, as an

encouragement for introducing in Britain the manufacture of ſo valuable an article, without which, it is aſſerted, that not a ſingle hat can be dyed. Therefor, in conſequence of the manufacture being now fully eſtabliſhed at home, parliament laid a duty of $3\frac{3}{20}d$ per pound on common verdigris, and $1\frac{1}{20}$ ſhilling on the chryſtallized, to be paid on importation, without allowing any drawback on re-exportation. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 32.]

June 19th—In compliance with the application of ſeveral manufacturers, the exportation of all machines, tools, and utenſils, uſed in the woollen, cotton, or ſilk, manufactures, or of any models or plans of ſuch machines, &c. was moſt ſtrictly prohibited: and the cuſtom-houſe officers allowing ſuch to be ſhipped, and alſo the commanders of veſſels taking them onboard, were ſubjected to heavy penalties. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 37.]

The owners of veſſels being liable to loſe them for acts of ſmuggling committed by the commanders or ſeamen, it was enacted, that every maſter or commander of a veſſel, concealing uncuſtomed goods onboard his veſſel, ſhall forfeit to the owners all his wages and triple the value of the goods ſo concealed: and mates and ſeamen ſhall alſo forfeit their wages, and ten ſhillings for every gallon of ſpirits concealed by them over the quantity allowed by law. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 39.]

July 5th—The rewards offered for any improvement in the method of aſcertaining the longitude, or other improvements uſeful to navigation, were further continued by parliament. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 52.]

This year the Levant, or Turkey, company received an aid of £8,000 inſtead of the cuſtomary £5,000, from the public. And, in compliance with the petitions of the planters and merchants concerned in the iſlands of Jamaica and Barbados, and alſo of the lord mayor and corporation of the city of London, parliament granted £80,000 for the relief of the ſufferers by the dreadful hurricane of laſt October for Barbados, and £40,000 for thoſe in Jamaica, who had ſuffered by the ſame calamity: and they ordered, that both ſums ſhould be paid free of any deductions of taxes or fees. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 57.]

As the charter of the bank of England was to expire in the year 1785, that company made a propoſal to lend the public two millions for three years at an intereſt of three per cent, one million to be paid on the 15th of November next, and the other on the 15th of February 1782, on condition of obtaining a renewal of their privilege of excluſive banking and other advantages, to be continued to them till the 1st of Auguſt 1812, and a notice of twelve months after that time; upon which notice, and the payment of the money advanced to the public being completed, the bank may be diſſolved. Theſe conditions were approved of, and ratified by parliament. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 60.]

July 18th—Orchillia weed and cobalt were permitted to be imported free of duty in Britiſh, Iriſh, or neutral, veſſels during the war. And

ſugars produced in the colonies of Demararay and Iſſequibo (or Eſſequibo) lately taken from the Dutch, were allowed to be imported as Britiſh ſugars, notwithſtanding the act, [6 *Geo. III, c.* 52] which conſidered as foreign all ſugars imported from the *continent* of America. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 62.]

The Eaſt-India company made up an account of the profits of their trade and territorial revenues to the 1st day of March 1781, whereby there appeared a balance, after paying £400,000 to the public according to agreement, of £288,025 : 17 : 10. This ſum they were afterwards authorized to pay in dividends to the proprietors of the ſtock: but they choſe rather to employ it in their trade; and they have kept a diſtinct account of it under the title of *The company's ſeparate fund*, which they have annually credited with intereſt.

The ſervants of the Eaſt-India company had engaged in hoſtilities with the Mahrattas, a fierce and warlike nation of freebooters, whom the Moguls, when in the zenith of their power, had never been able to reduce to their dominion. At the ſame time they were alſo at war with Hyder Ally, a prince of capacity and power, beyond any that had ever appeared in that part of the world. In conjunction with theſe two great powers, almoſt all the leſſer princes of Hindooſtan were confederated againſt the intereſts of the company; and they were, moreover, aſſiſted by the French, of whom Hyder had a conſiderable number in his own army. Hyder defeated a Britiſh army commanded by Colonel Baillie (10th September 1780), over-ran the whole country belonging to the company and their allies, and (31st October 1780) took the city of Arcot, the capital of a nabob, who had long been very cloſely allied with the preſidency of Madras, whereby he threw the whole of the company's affairs in that quarter into the utmoſt confuſion and diſtreſs, which were not a little aggravated by the diſſenſions, which at the ſame time diſtracted the counſels of that preſidency. In ſhort, from the concurrence of ſo many diſaſters, many people were induced to think the ſituation of the company's affairs utterly deſperate. Sir Edward Hughes gave the firſt turn to this run of adverſity in India, by deſtroying ſeveral warlike veſſels belonging to Hyder in Mangulore, his principal port (8th December 1780). And afterwards Sir Eyre Coote, having arrived in March 1781 with a ſmall reinforcement from Bengal, and aſſumed the command of the army, the affairs of the company began to put on a more proſperous appearance. That able commander regained ſeveral of the places, which had ſubmitted to Hyder, and with a very inferior force defeated him in a great pitched battle on the 1st of July 1781; after which ſucceſs continued to ſmile upon the arms of the company throughout the remainder of the war *.

* It appears, however, very probable, that and by their hoſtilities, with the European powers, the princes of Hindooſtan, by their alliances, will in time become maſters of the European art

The company's ſervants at Bombay in the mean time directed an expedition againſt the Dutch, by which they were expelled from their factories at Baroach near Surat.

The ſervants of the company in the ſupreme preſidency of Bengal, though they found means to keep actual warfare at a diſtance from their own reſidence, were very far from being in a ſtate of tranquillity. The reader will recollect that in the year 1773 the Britiſh legiſlature eſtabliſhed a ſupreme court of judicature in Bengal, co-ordinate with, and independent of, the governor-general. That court in a great meaſure ſuperſeded the authority of the mayor's court of Calcutta, the judges of which, being gentlemen in the company's ſervice, not bred to the profeſſion of the law, were ſuppoſed incompetent to the diſcharge of ſuch duties; though, as they regulated their proceedings by the eſtabliſhed laws and cuſtoms of the country, and with the aſſiſtance of the native magiſtrates, their deciſions had generally given much ſatisfaction. The new eſtabliſhment was undoubtedly intended, and was alſo conſidered by moſt people, as a meaſure of humanity as well as policy, calculated to protect the natives from the oppreſſion of the company's ſervants, to conciliate the jarring intereſts of the natives and Europeans, to adminiſter impartial juſtice to all, and to guard the company's revenues and commerce from the depredations of their own ſervants. Perhaps, if the change had been effected gradually, and with great addreſs and mildneſs, it might have been productive of ſome of the benefits expected from it; though even that is very doubtful. But the eſtabliſhment was ſudden, and the operations of the court were repreſented, as rigorous and ſevere in the extreme, by great numbers of petitions, which were repeatedly received at home, but which had not hitherto met with much attention.

Of the petitions ſent home this year complaining of the conduct of the judges and their adherents, one was ſigned by Mr. Haſtings, the governor-general of the Britiſh ſettlements in India, and by the members of the ſupreme council; another by 648 Britiſh ſubjects in Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa; and a third, written in the Perſian language, and addreſſed to the king, by the natives of the province of Patna. In theſe petitions and other communications it was aſſerted, that the conduct of the judges was calculated, not to conciliate, but to exaſperate; not to introduce order and regularity, but to ſubvert the eſtabliſhed ſimple and ſuitable laws, which had been revered and underſtood by the civilized and poliſhed anceſtors of the native Hindoos, probably, for ages before a human footſtep had preſſed the ſhore of Britain, and to ſubſtitute in their place the unknown laws of England, the incomprehenſible diſtinction between law and equity, and the endleſs intricacy, the fictions, and the perplexing jargon of the

of war: and then it will be impoſſible for a handful of ſtrangers, though they were augmented to fifty times their preſent number, to keep ſo many millions of the natives in ſubjection.

Engliſh courts, with all their ruinous train of extorſions, oppreſſions, delays, quibbles, and abuſes; though at the ſame time they refuſed to Britiſh ſubjects the benefit of that glorious boaſt of the Engliſh law, the trial by jury. The judges were moreover accuſed of invading the privileges of the governor-general and council, which were clearly defined and limited by act of parliament, and by the king's letters patent; of ſtretching their power in a moſt arbitrary manner to many perſons and actions beyond the extent of their commiſſion, (which was at leaſt ſufficiently ample) and of bringing before themſelves trials for actions of times long bypaſt. Of many acts of enormity, with which they were particularly charged, I ſhall only mention that, which was moſt inſtrumental in bringing matters to a criſis between the governor and the judges. The officers of the court, acting under the authority of the judges, had cruelly abuſed and inſulted a native prince (zemindar) tributary to the company, polluted the private apartments of his women, and prophaned the temple of his religious worſhip, without making the ſmalleſt allowance for the national cuſtoms and religious prejudices, which none of the ſervants of the company had ever preſumed to violate, and which even the furious bigotry of the Mohamedan conquerors had reſpected. The natives, who are remarkable for their ſtrong attachment to their hereditary princes, even in their preſent ſtate of humiliation, flew to the reſcue of his family from violation and rapine. The bailiffs were reinforced with a freſh gang of eighty-ſix armed men: and the ſeizure, begun in the name of juſtice, ended in battle and bloodſhed. It is proper to obſerve, that the zemindars are by no means amenable to Britiſh laws, and, indeed, have no further connection with the company than to pay them the fixed rent or tribute, formerly paid by their anceſtors to the ſuperior princes of the country. The governor-general and council, thinking it incumbent upon them to protect their tributary princes, and convinced that ſuch exceſſes threatened the very exiſtence of the Britiſh power and influence, conſidered it to be their duty to oppoſe by force the proceedings of the ſupreme court. And then was exhibited to the aſtoniſhed natives the ſpectacle of a large gang of Britiſh officers of the court and their troop of followers carried priſoners to Calcutta by a military force, ſent after them by the Britiſh governor, or, in ſhort, of a houſe divided againſt itſelf, which cannot ſtand, and all order and government ſubverted and buried under anarchy and irreconcileable pretenſions. Indeed, ſo wretched was the ſtate of the country, as it was repreſented in the petition of the natives, that many had flown from their native country; and they declared, that, if they could obtain no redreſs, all, who had the means, would abandon their deareſt connections, and fly wherever they could; and thoſe, who had no ability, would lay themſelves down in reſignation, and hope for relief in death. 'After this, let the ſoil of this country remain, and the

'court of juſtice! let the court of juſtice remain upon the earth, or the 'earth cover it!'

The governor and council declared in their petition, that, if they had not acted as they did, the intereſts of the Eaſt-India company, and thoſe of the Britiſh nation, inſeparably connected with them, muſt have been abſolutely ruined. And, as they had been compelled by the urgency of the caſe to take ſteps, which were irregular, they requeſted an act of indemnity for themſelves and others, who had acted under their authority.

It was very evident to every perſon, that ſuch a ſtate of affairs in Bengal, wherein neither the European nor the native inhabitants could poſſibly know, to which of the two contradictory powers, both of whom they were bound by law to obey, they ſhould yield obedience, could not continue long: and it was univerſally agreed, that a change was indiſpenſibly neceſſary.

In the meantime the attention of the miniſter was turned upon the agreement to be made with the company for the renewal of their charter, which was now approaching to the end of its term. But the conditions he propoſed were ſtill thought ſo exorbitant by the company, that there appeared no proſpect of any cordial accommodation taking place: and it was even repeatedly propoſed in their meetings, that, rather than comply with ſuch demands, they ſhould diſpoſe of all their property at home and abroad, diſſolve their partnerſhip, and reſt their claims on the deciſion of a court of juſtice.

May 23d—When the conſideration of the renewal of the charter was again reſumed in the houſe of commons, Lord North ſtrenuouſly inſiſted, that the company ſhould pay to the public £600,000 as a compoſition for three fourths of the ſurplus of the net revenues over the dividend of eight per cent, which, he alleged, belonged to the public. But Mr. Huſſey made it apparent, from a ſtatement he laid before the houſe, that the commercial and territorial revenues taken together, upon an average of ſixteen years paſt, had amounted only to *ſixteen* per cent, *nine* of which proceeded from the company's commerce, and conſequently there were only *ſeven* remaining of that part of the profits, to which the public could form any pretenſions.

July 18th—After many debates in parliament, and in the India houſe, the affairs of the company at home and abroad were ſettled by two acts of parliament in the following manner.

It was agreed, that the Eaſt-India company ſhould pay into the exchequer the ſum of £400,000 by four inſtallments in the courſe of this year, as a full compenſation for all claims the public might have upon them from the time that their bond debt was reduced to £1,500,000 to the 1ſt of March 1781. The company's excluſive trade, and the poſſeſſion of their territorial acquiſitions, were thereupon continued to

them till the 1st day of March 1791, and thereafter till parliament give three years' notice of an intention to diſcontinue them, and pay off the capital or debt of £4,200,000 due to the company, with all arrears of intereſt, &c. and, after a termination of their excluſive privileges, they are to have a right to remain a corporation, and to trade with their joint ſtock, in common with other Britiſh ſubjects. The public were henceforth to receive three fourths of the annual ſurplus of the net profits and revenues of the company, which ſhould remain above eight per cent computed upon their capital ſtock of £3,200,000. The remaining fourth, together with money to be allowed them in conſideration of victualing his Majeſty's ſhips in the Eaſt-Indies, they were allowed to apply in enlarging their dividends, ſo as the augmentation ſhould never exceed one per cent in a year, nor altogether ever riſe above *twelve and a half per cent*, the bond debt being alſo limited never to exceed £1,500,000.

In order to aſcertain the amount of the proportion of revenue payable to the public, the company were directed to preſent annually to the lords of the treaſury a balanced ſtatement of their accounts, with an inventory of their ſtock in hand, debts, &c. and diſtinguiſhing the ſtate of their ſtock at each of their ſettlements in India, made up to the 4th day of March in every year, and ſigned by two of the directors; and alſo to ſubmit to the inſpection of the ſecretaries of ſtate all letters and orders to be ſent out to India. They were alſo to lay copies of the accounts before the general courts of proprietors.

It was alſo ſettled by this act, that the company ſhould pay in India two lacks of current rupees annually to the king for every regiment conſiſting of one thouſand men, employed in India at their requeſt, over and above the extraordinaries now paid by them, and reckoning from the embarkation of the regiments to their return to Britain: and that they ſhould ſupply all the victualing for his Majeſty's ſhips, employed in India at their requeſt, from the 5th day of July 1782, till the termination of the war, one fourth part of the expenſe of which ſhould be returned to them by government: provided, that the three fourth parts of the victualing, to be defrayed by the company, do not diſable them from making dividends of eight per cent; in caſe of which the part of the expenſe to be defrayed by the public muſt be enlarged ſo as to admit of the company making ſuch a dividend, unleſs the whole is found inadequate to it. But after the peace the whole expenſe of ſuch victualing falls upon the company. And they are alſo obliged to buy, and carry out, all ſuch naval and military ſtores for his Majeſty's ſhips, as ſhall be required by the commiſſioners of the navy, for which they are to be repaid by the treaſury the principal part of the coſt in forty days after delivering the account, and the remainder after certificates are obtained of the ſtores being furniſhed to the king's ſhips in India. The

company are alſo to ſupply all neceſſary ſtores for the repair of the king's ſhips in India, for which they are to be paid during the war: but after the peace ſuch ſtores are to be ſupplied at the company's expenſe.

The company were, as before, reſtricted from accepting bills from India for more than £300,000 in one year, beſides the uſual warrants of £8,000 to the commander of each of their ſhips, without the permiſſion of the treaſury.

Doubts having ariſen, whether, in conſequence of great numbers of foreigners being proprietors of India ſtock, the ſhips in the company's ſervice could be abſolutely conſidered as Britiſh veſſels, it was declared by this act, that all their ſhips are conſidered as Britiſh ſhips within the true intent and meaning of the act.

The governor-general and council of Bengal were continued in office during the continuance of this act, unleſs removed by the king: and, in caſe of death or reſignation, the directors may appoint ſucceſſors to them with his Majeſty's conſent.

As ſome compenſation for the reſtraints now laid upon the company, the prohibitions againſt Britiſh ſubjects being in any way whatever concerned with foreigners in India were made ſo ſtrict, that even lending money, directly or indirectly, to any foreign European was declared unlawful. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 65.]

The doubts and difficulties concerning the authority of the ſupreme court in Bengal having been found productive of much diſſenſion between the judges of it and the governor-general and council, and of many evils to the inhabitants; and it being 'expedient, that the lawful 'government of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, ſhould be 'ſupported, that the revenues thereof ſhould be collected with certainty, 'and that the inhabitants ſhould be maintained and protected in the 'enjoyment of their ancient laws, uſages, rights, and privileges,' it was enacted, that the governor-general and council of Bengal ſhould not be ſubject to the juriſdiction of the ſupreme court for any thing done in their public capacity, nor any other perſon for any thing done by a written order from them; that the ſupreme court ſhould have no juriſdiction in matters of revenue (except to puniſh moderately any abuſe or extortion committed in the collection of it), nor any authority over any perſon by reaſon of his being a landholder or farmer of lands. Among a variety of regulations for the proceedings of the court, it was ordered, that cauſes between the Mahomedan or Hindoo inhabitants of Calcutta ſhould be tried by their own laws, and, if the parties were of different religions, by thoſe of the defendant; and that what is allowable by their laws ſhould upon no account be adjudged to be criminal, though it might be ſo by the law of England. Finally, the governor-general, the council, the advocate-general, and all perſons acting under their orders, were indemnified for any thing done in reſiſtance to the authority of the

ſupreme court between the 1st of January 1779 and the 1st of November 1780. [21 *Geo. III, c.* 70.]

Commodore Johnſtone was ſent out with a ſquadron of ſhips to attack the Dutch ſettlement at the Cape of Good Hope, and alſo to convoy the outward-bound India ſhips. When lying in harbour at the Cape de Verd iſlands, where he had put in for refreſhments, he was attacked by a French fleet under Mr. de Suffrein, whom he beat off. But, as they got before him to the Cape, the object of his expedition was thereby fruſtrated. However, in Saldanha bay (July 21st) he ſurpriſed five homeward-bound Dutch India ſhips of about 1,100 tuns, and carrying from 20 to 24 guns, which were immediately ſet on fire by the Dutch: but four were ſaved from the flames, and brought off. Whereupon he directed his courſe homeward with his prizes, the number of which was augmented by an outward-bound Dutch India ſhip, taken by one of his ſquadron; and the ſhips of his convoy proceeded on their voyage for India.

Auguſt 5th—The firſt general engagement between a Britiſh and a Dutch fleet, which was maintained with great bravery on both ſides, and without a deciſive victory on either, was attended with a circumſtance very advantageous to the commercial intereſts, as well as the warlike operations, of this country; the ſafe arrival of above a hundred ſail of merchant ſhips from the Baltic with naval ſtores and other goods, under the convoy of Admiral Hyde Parker, which he, having the advantage of the wind, detached from his fleet before the engagement. The Dutch Admiral Zoutman had alſo a fleet of merchant ſhips under his protection, which likeways got ſafe into port. But there was this important difference in the circumſtances of the two fleets. The Britiſh ſhips had completed their voyages, and brought their cargoes ſafe into port: the Dutch by putting into port were diſappointed of their voyages; and their country was diſappointed of the naval ſtores, they were deſtined to bring home.

The loſſes ſuſtained by the Dutch in conſequence of the capture of St. Euſtathius were ſeverely felt, not only by thoſe who were ſettled on the iſland, whoſe moſt extenſive and lucrative trade, conſiſting moſtly of conſignments, was thereby aboliſhed, but alſo by almoſt every perſon in the mother country: for the Dutch being a nation conſiſting almoſt entirely of people engaged in trade and manufactures, or dependent upon them, there can ſcarcely be an individual in ſuch a community unaffected by a ſevere blow upon any particular branch of their commerce. Hence aroſe a great clamour againſt the partizans of the French intereſt, who were charged with having unneceſſarily involved the nation in a war with their antient and natural allies and beſt cuſtomers. The province of Zeland even went ſo far as to preſent, in a corporate capacity, a memorial to the States general, earneſtly requeſting that a negotiation

ſhould immediately be entered upon for the reſtoration of peace. That province was particularly engaged in commercial connections with Britain; and it was ſaid that near two thouſand * Britiſh traders actually reſided in Middleburg, the capital, beſides great numbers in the other towns of it.

But the French intereſt prevailed; and all the efforts of the people to induce their high mightineſſes to ſeek for peace were ineffectual. In the meantime applications were made by the Dutch government to the northern powers, their late aſſociates in the armed neutrality, alleging their acceſſion to that confederacy as the principal cauſe of Great Britain entering into war with them, and therefor claiming their aſſiſtance. But, however deſirous thoſe powers might be of procuring unlimited freedom to the commerce of their own ſubjects, and even of contributing to the humiliation of the naval power of Great Britain, they were by no means willing to draw upon themſelves the actual hoſtility of that power. The empreſs of Ruſſia ſent orders to her ambaſſador at London to offer her mediation, and alſo ſent Prince Gallitzin as her envoy-extraordinary to the States-general to acquaint them of her kind intentions in their favour. The king of Sweden in like manner ſent offers of mediation in favour of '*a nation entirely commercial*,' and alſo complaints of the hardſhips ſuſtained by the commerce of the neutral nations, and by his own commercial ſubjects in particular, which muſt be increaſed and aggravated by the further extenſion of the war.

The offers of both theſe powers were reſpectfully received by the Britiſh court. The Ruſſian offer of mediation was accepted, in caſe the Dutch were really deſirous of returning to a ſtate of amity with Great Britain: and the Swediſh ambaſſador was informed, that the preſervation of public tranquillity was the firſt object of his Majeſty's care. But it was obſerved, that the conduct of the Dutch was very different from that of a nation merely commercial: for they had refuſed to fulfill their engagements with Great Britain, and had moreover, with the moſt glaring partiality, given every aſſiſtance to the enemies of this country. Nevertheleſs, his Britannic Majeſty had ſtill expreſſed 'the moſt earneſt 'deſire to bring back the republic to that ſyſtem of cloſe union, efficacious alliance, and mutual protection, which has ſo much contributed 'to the proſperity and glory of the two ſtates.' And the ambaſſador was civilly informed, that the empreſs of Ruſſia being prior in her offer, his Majeſty would not ſo far deviate from the reſpect due to her Imperial Majeſty, as to aſſociate 'to her mediation any other, even that of an ally 'the moſt reſpectable, and for whom the king entertains the moſt ſincere friendſhip.'

Theſe negotiations were not attended with any ſucceſs. But they are worthy of our notice; becauſe they ſhew (as I had occaſion to obſerve,

* I ſhould ſuppoſe, this number may have comprehended the families of the traders, including their clerks, and even their menial ſervants.

of the Rhodians in the antient part of my work) how much the intereſt and the ſafety of a nation, whom others conſider as merely commercial, engage the attention and goodwill of their neighbours.

The emperor of Germany wiſely kept clear of the war, and embraced the favourable opportunity to promote the improvement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, in his dominions. He alſo gave a free toleration of religion through all his territories, and in many other reſpects conſiderably curtailed the papal power. He traveled all-over his dominions, that he might ſee with his own eyes the condition of his ſubjects; and, when he was at Bruſſels this ſummer, he admitted all petitioners to his preſence, and, diveſting himſelf of all pomp, allowed every one to tell his own tale in his own way to the *father of the people*. Upon that occaſion he alſo eſtabliſhed regulations for the improvement of the inland navigation of the Netherlands, and on the 11th of June he declared Oſtend a free port.

October 9th—The armed neutrality, which already comprehended Ruſſia, Sweden, Denmark, and Pruſſia, (the Dutch being no longer neutral) was now ſtrengthened by the acceſſion of the emperor, though we are not told with what proportion of maritime force *.

September—The combined fleets of France and Spain, to the number, as was ſaid, of forty-nine ſail of the line, cruiſed for ſome time at the mouth of the Engliſh channel, where they hoped to intercept our rich homeward-bound fleets from the Weſt-Indies, and alſo a large outward-bound fleet, which, they knew, was ſoon to ſail from Cork. Their great number enabled them to form a line, or bar, from Uſhant quite acroſs to Silley, ſo that they were confident, that no veſſel going in or out could eſcape them. Admiral Darby, who was then at ſea with twenty-one ſail of the line, was indebted to the accident of receiving notice of their ſituation by a neutral veſſel for not falling into their hands, to avoid which he put into Torbay, where his fleet was increaſed to thirty ſhips of the line, with which he proceeded to ſea on the 14th of September, his orders being to protect the homeward-bound merchant ſhips at all hazards.

In the meantime an invaſion was apprehended in the ſouth of Ireland. The unfortified harbour of Cork could not protect the rich fleet of ſhips in it, and the vaſt ſtores of proviſions collected in the warehouſes would be a moſt deſirable prize to the enemy. The military forces in Ireland were therefor marched to the defence of that city; and the Iriſh volunteers made an offer of their ſervices, wherever they ſhould be wanted.

While preparations to withſtand their attack were going on at Torbay, and in Ireland, a council of war was held onboard the combined fleet, wherein ſome of the admirals propoſed to attack Admiral Darby

* It is ſcarcely worth while to take notice of a treaty between Ruſſia and Portugal, whereby the later acceded to the armed neutrality, in February 1783, *when the war was at an end*.

while lying at anchor, and they aſſerted, that the total deſtruction of his fleet, which muſt be inevitable, would at once ruin the naval power of Great Britain, and put an end to the war. But it was contended by others, that the Britiſh ſhips were ſo poſted that they muſt have a very great advantage over thoſe of the combined fleet, the ſhips of which could only follow each-other in a line, whereby each one muſt be expoſed ſingly to the fire of many of the enemy's ſhips; and that the capture of ſuch a large merchant fleet, which, there could be no doubt, muſt fall into their hands, an unreſiſting prey, would be a much ſeverer blow upon the reſources of Great Britain. The later plan was adopted, and they drew off from Torbay, leaving Admiral Darby at liberty to proceed to ſea, thus exhibiting an additional proof of the inefficiency almoſt inſeparable from the operations of confederated forces. But, before he left Torbay, it pleaſed the Almighty to employ the elements to fight for the preſervation of the Britiſh commerce more effectually than any human force could have done. In the beginning of September the weather became ſo ſtormy, that the combined fleets, which were in many reſpects in very bad condition, and crowded with ſick men, were obliged to abandon their towering hopes of deſtroying the maritime power, or the commerce, of Great Britain, and ſeek for ſafety in their own ports. And thus the French and Spaniards, after having a ſecond time filled the entrance of our channel with fleets, which ſeemed to defy all power of reſiſtance, returned home, without accompliſhing the ſmalleſt object of advantage to themſelves, and on the preſent occaſion without ſo much as taking a ſingle prize. The whole of the Weſt-India fleet, which was ſo providentially detained later than was expected, arrived ſafe in a few weeks after.

September 23^{d}—At a meeting of the proprietors of bank ſtock it was determined to raiſe their dividends from *five and a half* to *ſix* per cent, and alſo to make an addition of eight per cent to their capital ſtock by four inſtallments, to be completed by the 15th of February 1782, whereby the capital of the bank was increaſed from £10,780,000 to £11,642,400.

November 26th—The marquis de Bouillé with about 300 ſoldiers, attended by three frigates, and ſome ſmall veſſels as tranſports, landed at an unguarded bay in S^{t}. Euſtathius, ſurpriſed Colonel Cockburn with his garriſon of 723 men, and immediately got poſſeſſion of the iſland. The marquis that ſame day reſtored the Dutch inhabitants to the civil government of the iſland, and aſſured them, that the French ſhould keep poſſeſſion, only till a Dutch garriſon could arrive to take charge of the iſland, which he had reconquered merely in friendſhip to them. He alſo reſtored a large ſum of money, which was found in the government houſe, to ſuch of the inhabitants as could prove their right to i— The iſland of S^{t}. Martin followed the fate of S^{t}. Euſtathius now, as it had done in the beginning of the year. And thus ended our tranſitory poſſeſſion of thoſe iſlands.

December 12th—Admiral Kempenfelt fell in with a French fleet with a great number of tranſports under convoy: and, though the French were greatly ſuperior to him in force, he took fourteen of the tranſports; and five more of them were taken ſome days after by two ſhips of his ſquadron. The prizes were filled with ſoldiers, artillery, and ordinance ſtores; and the capture may be conſidered as an event of importance in commercial hiſtory, as it was probably the means of ſaving ſome of our remaining poſſeſſions in the Weſt-Indies, perhaps Jamaica itſelf, from falling into the hands of the enemy.

Such was at this time the glut of Britiſh manufactures, and of imported goods in general, in the few ports of America, which were under the Britiſh dominion, owing to the exceſſive ſpirit of adventure *, and probably alſo to the large ſales of goods greatly under value at St. Euſtathius, that ſpeculators, eſpecially in New York, found, they could employ their money much more advantageouſly in buying goods on the ſpot, which were every day ſelling under their original coſt, than by importing them.

The antient colony of Barbados contains only 106,470 acres of land, and it has at all times been more populous than any other of the ſugar iſlands, and, perhaps I might add, more populous than moſt parts of Europe, excluſive of great towns. About the year 1670 it is ſaid to have had 50,000 white, and above 100,000 black, inhabitants; but from the following enumerations, it will appear that theſe numbers muſt have been greatly exaggerated.

The population of Barbados was in

	White inhabitants.	Free people of colour.	Slaves.	Total.
1676	21,725	- - -	32,473	
1712	12,528	- - -	41,970	
1748 by a liſt	15,252	107	47,025	

Theſe numbers being made up for the purpoſe of taxation, ſlaves under age were exempted, and the liſts were further falſified by concealments. Governor Grenville reported the real numbers in 1748 to be

	25,000 white and	- -	68,000 ſlaves.	
In 1768 they were	16,139	448 -	66,379 -	82,966
1773	18,532	- - -	68,548	

From the apparent careleſs manner, in which theſe accounts, at leaſt the earlier ones, have been made up, little dependence can be placed upon them for judging of the progreſſive ſtate of Barbados. The exports of ſugar, the principal ſtaple of the iſland, will furniſh a better ſtandard. According to Poſtlethwayte, there were in the year 1736

	22,769 hogſheads containing	295,997 cwts.
and on an average of eight years 1740-1748 they were only	13,948	209,220

* See the exports to New York, &c. in the table at the end of this year.

The principal ſource of the opulence of the iſland being in a progreſſive ſtate of decline, owing to the ſtrength of the ſoil being exhauſted, and the inhabitants being ſtill too numerous (though great numbers had emigrated to other iſlands) to be all employed in, or comfortably ſupported by, the cultivation of the ſoil, it became an object of ſerious attention to diſcover other means of employment and ſupport. Therefor ſeveral gentlemen of the iſland this year eſtabliſhed *a ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, in Barbados:* and they advertiſed premiums—for the manufacture of lace from the fibres of the cabbage-tree leaves, ſilk-graſs, or plantane ſtalks—for the greateſt quantity of all theſe fibres prepared in a proper ſtate for manufacturing—for the greateſt quantity of cotton yarn fit for weaving—for knit cotton ſtockings, and uſeful fabrics woven from cotton—for muſquito nets made from any native material—for the diſcovery of valuable native dye ſtuffs—and for the beſt horſe bred in the iſland.

Money, however, appears to have been continually becoming more plentiful in Barbados; as a proof of which, the legal intereſt, which before the year 1668 was 15 per cent, was, after ſucceſſive reductions ſettled in 1754 at 6 per cent: and Governor Cunningham in his official letters, aſſerted, that it was now in contemplation (probably in conſequence of the large ſum granted by the Britiſh legiſlature to the ſufferers in the late hurricane) to reduce it to 5 per cent, a rate of intereſt below the legal ſtandard of any of the foreign dominions ſubject to the crown of Great Britain, even including Ireland.

The following enumeration of the houſes chargeable with the window tax in each of the counties, or ſhires, of England and Wales, in the years 1750 and 1781, is taken from the accounts made up at the tax office.

	In 1750	In 1781
Bedford	6,802	5,360
Berks	9,762	8,277
Buckingham	10,687	8,670
Cambridge	9,334	9,088
Chester	16,006	17,201
Cornwall	14,520	15,274
Cumberland	11,914	13,419
Derby	13,912	14,046
Devon	30,049	28,612
Dorset	11,711	11,132
Durham	10,475	12,418
Eſſex	19,075	18,389
Gloucester	16,251	14,950
Hampſhire	18,045	15,828
Hertford	9,251	8,628

	In 1750	In 1781
Hereford	8,771	8,092
Huntingdon	4,363	3,847
Kent	30,029	30,975
Lancaster	33,273	30,956
Leicester	12,957	12,545
Lincoln	24,999	24,591
Middlesex, with London and Westminster	71,977	74,704
Monmouth	4,980	4,454
Norfolk	20,697	20,056
Northampton	12,464	10,350
Northumberland	10,453	12,431
Nottingham	11,001	10,872
Oxford	10,362	8,698
Rutland	1,873	1,445
Salop	13,332	12,895
Somerset	27,822	26,407
Stafford	15,917	16,483
Suffolk	18,834	19,589
Surrey, with Southwark	20,037	19,381
Sussex	11,170	10,574
Warwick	12,759	13,276
Westmoreland	4,937	6,144
Wilts	14,303	12,856
Worcester	9,967	8,791
York	70,816	76,224
Wales. Anglesey	1,334	2,264
Brecknock	3,234	3,407
Cardigan	2,542	2,444
Carmarthen	5,020	5,126
Carnarvon	2,366	2,675
Denbigh	6,091	5,678
Flint	3,520	2,990
Glamorgan	6,290	5,146
Merioneth	2,664	2,972
Montgomery	4,890	5,421
Pembroke	2,803	3,224
Radnor	2,425	2,076
	729,048	721,351

Of the chargeable houses in 1781, there were reported to be

having under 10 windows	497,801
under 20 windows	171,177
above 20 windows	52,373
	721,351
The cottages, or houses not chargeable were	284,459
Total houses and cottages in 1781	1,005,810

But the accuracy of theſe accounts, though official, has been queſtioned by ſome writers of eminence, who have beſtowed great attention on the ſubject. And, indeed, it ſtrikes one at the firſt glance, that a decreaſe is ſtated in ſome counties, where there ought certainly to be an increaſe. Lancaſhire in particular is here ſtated as having fallen off. But it is unqueſtionable, that the two rapidly-increaſing towns of Liverpool and Mancheſter with their thriving dependencies, ſituated in that county, have greatly augmented their number of houſes between the years 1750 and 1781; and it is equally certain, that the county in general has been in an advancing ſtate of population and proſperity. It is not to be ſuppoſed, that Wiltſhire, Somerſet, and Glouceſter-ſhire, the ſeat of the flouriſhing and increaſing woollen manufacture, can be declining in the number or goodneſs of their houſes; or that Surrey, wherein a collection of buildings, which, if remote from London, would be reckoned a large town, has within that time ſtarted up in S^t. George's fields only, beſides the vaſt numbers of other new buildings, the effects of the growing opulence of the capital, could have fewer chargeable houſes in 1781 than in 1750. On the other hand, we can ſcarcely ſuppoſe, that ſome counties have advanced ſo very much as appears by theſe accounts, e. g. Weſtmoreland, Angleſey, &c. But there ſeems very good reaſon to believe, that, upon the whole, the number of chargeable houſes (that is, houſes of the better ſort) inſtead of decreaſing 7,697 throughout the whole kingdom of England and Wales, has more probably increaſed as many in thoſe thirty-one years. Sir Frederic Morton Eden has with laudable patriotic induſtry collected the numbers of houſes and people in a great number of towns and pariſhes, in ninety of which, whereof he has obtained the numbers of the charged and exempted houſes, the charged are 24,464, and the exempted 30,005: and thence he infers, that the whole number of exempted houſes in England and Wales muſt be conſiderably above 900,000, or above three times as many as were returned; and that the whole population muſt be near to nine millions. And Mr. Chalmers, from comparing the proportion of the charged and exempted houſes in the year 1690, concludes, that the exempted houſes in 1781 could not be fewer than 865,000, making in all 1,586,000 houſes, inhabited by about eight millions and a half of people. Upon the whole it is very evident, that the exempted houſes are much more numerous than they appear in the account, and that any eſtimate of the population or condition of the country, founded on the returns of the ſurveyors of the houſe and window duties muſt be very fallacious. [*See Chalmers's Eſtimate, c.* xi.—*Eden's State of the poor, V.* iii, *p.* cccli.]

I have now before me copies of accounts of the numbers of houſes in England and Scotland, made up at the office for taxes 23^d January 1781, which, enumerating the inhabited and chargeable houſes together with the cottages, in each county make the whole number of both deſcriptions in England, including Wales and Berwick upon Tweed, to be

only 952,734; and the chargeable houſes in Scotland, the cottages being entirely omitted, to be only 17,734.

The following comparative enumeration of the chargeable inhabited houſes in the principal cities, towns, and villages, is taken from the ſame accounts; and as the ſubjects of it lie in a narrower compaſs, we may ſuppoſe it more correct than that of the counties.

London, city	16,332	Canterbury	881	Edmundton	474		
Weſtminſter and liberty	17,013	Gloucester	841	Peterburgh	473		
Marylebone	3,664	Colchester	828	Boſton	469		
Chelſea	610	Hereford	810	Wiſbech	469		
Kenſington	700	Salisbury	804	Mitcham	462		
Pancras	1,273	Sunderland	792	Haltwesel	455		
Iſlington	828	Chatham	765	Newbury	453		
Hackney	1,168	Maidſton	727	Faverſham	452		
Southwark	12,120	Northampton	706	Grantham	451		
Deptford	926	Worceſter	721	Ramſgate	450		
Greenwich	1,555	Woolwich	690	Macclesfield	449		
		Wolverhampton	683	Wandſworth	449		
	* 56,189	Yarmouth	682	Darlington	444		
Briſtol	3947	Berwick upon Tweed	678	Leominſter	444		
St. Philip and Jacob	555 } 4,502	Reading	672	Halifax	440		
Liverpool †	3,974	Lynn	662	Loughburgh	440		
Plymouth	1510 }	St. Edmundſbury	648	St. John's in Thanet	440		
Stoke Damerel	1151 } 2,661	Walſall	644	Tiverton	435		
Manchester †	2,519	Scarburgh	628	Stockton	431		
Oxford and Univerſity	2,316	Chicheſter	621	Kingſton	431		
Norwich	2,302	Winchester	613	Carlile	430		
Birmingham	2,291	Croydon	612	Carmarthen	430		
York	2,285	Stockport	612	Ludlow	430		
Newcaſtle upon Tine	2,219	Rochester	607	Windſor	2 8		
Sheffield	2,092	Lancaſter	604	Lichfield	407		
Bath	1173 }	Deal	600	Sandwich	406		
Walcot and ſuburbs	786 } 1,959	Shiels	578	Bradford, Yorkſhire	403		
Cambridge and Univerſity	1,925	Stanford	576	Preſton	402		
Leiceſter	1,561	Whitby	548	Hexham	402		
Nottingham	1,533	Wakefield	544	Hertford	401		
Leeds	1,529	Newark	538	Graveſend	401		
Exeter	1,474	Southampton	535	Richmond	400		
Hull and county	1,370	Folkſtone	533				
Derby	1,358	Poole	523	Edinburgh, city ‡	2,017		
Whitehaven	1,298	Doncaſter	514	Glaſgow §	1,005		
Cheſter	1,244	Alnwick	513	Aberdeen	449		
Ipſwich	1,244	Manſfield	510	Dundee	419		
Dover	1,193	Warwick	495				
Lincoln	906	Taviſtock	489	All other towns were rated at fewer than 400 inhabited and chargeable houſes.			
Shrewsbury	904	Warrington	479				
Coventry	890	Brentford	477				

* Much more might be comprehended under the general appellation of London in the largeſt extent o the name: but it is impoſſible to draw the line, where the town ends and the country begins. Indeed, the villages, and even the roads, for ten miles in every direction, may almoſt be conſidered as parts of the town, being filled and ſupported by the overflowing opulence of the capital.

†† The whole houſes in Liverpool were reckoned in 1773 - 5,928, and in 1783 - 6,819
and in Manchester with Salford - - 4,268 6,178
Theſe numbers prove the truth of the obſervation upon the increaſed numbers of Lancaſhire. [*See Chalmers's Eſtimate, p. 218, ed. 1794.*]

‡ So long ago as 1722 there were 5,975 families within the city of Edinburgh; and in 1791, when many had removed to the ſuburbs for the ſake of more room, there were 6,434 families within the city, and 12,220 in the ſuburbs, being in all 18,654 families, excluſive of the inhabitants of the caſtle and of the hoſpitals. [*Sinclair's Statiſtical account of Scotland, V.* vi, *p.* 560.]

§ By an enumeration in 1785 the inhabited houſes in Glaſgow, excluſive of the ſuburbs, were found to be 9,102. By another enumeration in 1791, which is believed to have been very accurate, they were increaſed to 10,291. [*Sinclair, V.* v, *p.* 510.]

The following enumeration of the Britiſh and Dutch ſhips, which paſſed the Sound to, and from, the Baltic ſea in the years 1780 and 1781, ſhows very ſtrongly the effect of the war upon the commerce of the Dutch, and eſpecially their carrying trade, the favourite branch of it; and it alſo accounts for the anxiety expreſſed by the northern nations for an unlimited freedom of commerce.

	Britiſh ſhips.	Dutch ſhips.
1780 - - -	1,701 - -	2,058
1781 - - -	2,001 - -	9

And not one French veſſel entered the Baltic in theſe two years. But the French trade was carried on in neutral bottoms. And many of the Dutch merchant ſhips continued in the trade under Imperial, Swediſh, Pruſſian, and Daniſh, colours. Some Britiſh veſſels alſo, in order to leſſen the expenſe of their inſurance, procured neutral papers during the war.

There belonged this year to all the ports of England 6,567 veſſels of the reputed burthen of 540,909 tuns, and of Scotland 1,489 - - - 85,537

Total - 8,056 - - - 626,446

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh.		Foreign.		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	4,715	503,872	2,108	262,594	6,823	766,466
Outward -	6,939	608,319	1,564	70,775	8,503	679,094

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of this year, was from the cuſtom-houſe in London - £2,731,428 7 10
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh - 60,000 0 0

Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain £2,791,428 7 10

There were coined in the mint in the courſe of the year 18,765 pounds of gold, value - - £876,794 12 6
and 20 pounds of ſilver, - - - 62 0 0

£876,856 12 6

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1780 to Chriſtmas 1781 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into ENGLAND.	Imported into SCOTLAND.	Exported from ENGLAND.	Exported from SCOTLAND.
Africa	£36,386 8 10		£312,822 7 10	
Denmark and Norway	94,639 1 10	£28,181 19 0	172,012 19 9	£35,011 11 1
East country	447,845 8 0		86,848 19 3	
East-India	2,526,339 2 2		595,131 18 2	
Flanders	1,204,860 4 5	45,803 19 4	1,968,383 11 3	56,452 6 10
France	1,909 14 4		873 12 0	
Germany	617,185 6 5	26,659 2 6	1,000,078 11 2	26,458 11 3
Greenland	28,255 13 1	8,291 13 3		
Holland	100,048 18 11	13,563 8 5	313,487 7 10	
Iceland		465 1 3		
Ireland	1,433,835 15 2	195,685 13 0	1,769,589 19 1	305,167 11 11
Mann	11,204 17 10	802 6 0	19,418 19 9	1,818 18 6
Italy	133,645 18 6		262,760 7 4	
Madeira	2,433 8 2		24,000 9 10	
Poland		7,389 19 0		161 6 1
Prussia		9,648 11 9		82 5 4
Portugal	355,723 3 0	14,614 10 0	523,493 7 3	678 14 9
Russia	1,206,806 18 7	209,325 1 8	137,967 6 7	5,915 5 0
Spain	114,492 7 2			
Gibraltar	994 2 4		3,550 5 6	
Straits			6,165 10 0	
Sweden	212,414 19 11	18,793 7 11	62,510 8 10	4,793 13 7
Turkey	24,180 2 6		1,562 19 10	
Venice	37,035 12 3		17,819 16 3	
Guernsey, &c.	94,876 7 2	5,443 9 6	75,798 13 11	17,285 5 0
America in general		49,826 19 2		183,620 10 2
Hudson's bay	14,763 17 0		6,228 3 5	
Newfoundland	51,593 18 10		74,091 4 3	
Quebec	48,547 17 11		422,807 13 6	
Nova Scotia	4,023 19 6		32,474 10 1	
New England	2,068 6 0			
New York	2,904 18 5		502,977 5 8	
Carolina	94,368 8 2		330,847 2 10	
Georgia	506 5 0		14,058 19 0	
Florida	30,715 5 1		16,446 9 1	
West-Indies in general		169,375 11 1		141,220 9 6
Antigua	152,445 4 2		65,223 11 2	
Barbados	81,177 13 11		152,681 6 10	
Bermuda	2,673 14 9		2,346 3 6	
Jamaica	869,751 14 10		442,695 5 2	
Montserrat	56,402 10 8		14,707 12 6	
Nevis	83,513 8 2		22,634 11 2	
New Providence	8,553 16 2		1,776 15 10	
St. Chriſtophers	385,527 17 10		133,312 15 0	
St. Euſtathius	5,159 17 1		453 8 5	
St. Lucia	103,565 19 0		89,394 3 0	
St. Martins	28,010 4 3		4,127 15 3	
St. Thomas			26,606 12 11	
Tobago	29,330 2 8		14,442 17 10	
Tortola	70,960 0 10		33,438 0 9	
Demararay	20,232 19 6		4,473 13 6	
New Orleans			98 17 4	
Southern fiſhery	4,151 0 0			
Prize goods	1,087,928 18 8		866,564 1 5	
Imp. and exp. of England	11,918,991 9 0		10,569,186 10 10	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	803,870 12 10	803,870 12 10	763,109 9 0	763,109 9 0
Total, Great Britain	12,722,862 1 10		11,332,295 19 10	

1782—The city and fortreſs of Negapatnam, belonging to the Dutch on the coaſts of the Carnatic in the ſouth part of Hindooſtan *, were taken by Sir Edward Hughes and Sir Hector Munro (12th November 1781): and this conqueſt was immediately followed by the retreat of Hyder's troops from the neighbouring country, belonging to the company and their allies. From Negapatnam Sir Edward proceeded to the coaſt of Ceylon, where he alſo took the Dutch ſettlements and forts at Trincomalee (January 11th). Two battles were fought in the early part of this year by the Britiſh and French fleets in the Indian ſeas, which both terminated to the advantage of the Britiſh, as did alſo moſt of the many battles on the main land with Hyder Ally: and there were ſeveral viciſſitudes of ſucceſs and defeat in the enſuing part of the ſeaſon, none of which were of ſuch importance as to merit particular notice in commercial hiſtory. But in the proſecution of thoſe hoſtilities the provinces, which were the theatre of the war, were ruined by pillage and extortion; the agriculture, the manufactures, and commerce, of the country were almoſt annihilated †: and the whole conduct of the war, with reſpect to the unhappy natives, was equally repugnant to the principles of ſound policy and to the commercial intereſts of the Eaſt-India company.

The Dutch Eaſt-India company, who were for a long time the greateſt and moſt powerful mercantile aſſociation that had ever appeared in the world, had hitherto continued tolerably proſperous, notwithſtanding the general decline of the taſte for ſpices in Europe, and the relaxation of economy and conduct in their ſervants in India. But their recent misfortunes in India gave ſuch a check to their commercial proſperity, that they muſt have been brought to the verge of ruin, if the States-general had not given them the moſt liberal ſupport by loans to a very large amount.

In the weſtern hemiſphere a continued ſeries of misfortunes attended the poſſeſſions of Great Britain in the beginning of this year. The marquis de Bouillé and the comte de Graſſe took the ſmall, but fertile, iſland of Nevis (January 14th); after which they attacked the larger and more valuable neighbouring iſland of St. Chriſtophers, which, after a gallant reſiſtance, was alſo obliged to ſurrender (February 13th); and the iſland of Montſerrat ſhared the ſame fate. The French commanders granted thoſe iſlands the moſt liberal terms, whereby their properties, their religious and civil liberties, and, in a great meaſure, even their forms of government, were preſerved to the inhabitants. In the meantime a French

* I am aware that the great extent of country ſouth of the River Nerbudda is not properly any part of Hindooſtan; and that the proper general name of the whole peninſula (if a maſs of land, ſo formed, can be called a peninſula) has been from all antiquity *Deccan*. But I uſe the name in the large acceptation, it is generally, but improperly, extended to.

† Theſe miſeries were followed by a moſt dreadful famine, whereby 300,000 people are ſaid to have periſhed in the territories of the company and thoſe of Hyder Ally.

ſquadron arrived at Demararay, and took poſſeſſion of that place and Iſſequibo, together with ſeveral Britiſh veſſels (January 31ſt).

February 3d—Jamaica, though it was not attacked by any hoſtile force, ſuffered ſeverely from a fire, whereby Kingſton, the principal commercial town in the Britiſh Weſt-Indies, loſt houſes, ſtores, and merchandize of all kinds to the value, as was eſtimated, of half a million of money.

In Europe Britain loſt the iſland of Minorca, which, after a long and obſtinate defence by General Murray, ſurrendered to the united forces of France and Spain (February 6th).

February—The month of February in this year may be noted for the loweſt price, at which the funds of this country have ever been ſold, prior to the great depreſſion in the preſent war with France, the three-per-cents having been as low as 53⅝.

March—The permiſſion to import Italian organzined ſilk was further continued till the 25th of March 1783. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 7.]

The ſum of thirteen millions and a half was raiſed for the public ſervice by a loan, to which was attached a lottery for the further ſum of £405,000. The ſubſcribers received £100 in the three-per-cent conſolidated fund, and £50 in the four-per-cent conſolidated fund, together with a terminable annuity of 17/6 for ſeventy-eight years to be computed from 5th January 1782, for every £100 ſubſcribed; and moreover three lottery tickets at the price of £10 each for every £1,000 ſubſcribed, the number of tickets on this occaſion being only 40,500.

The following acts were continued for limited times, viz.

The act for encouraging the manufacture of ſail-cloth in Great Britain, continued till 29th September 1788.

The act for encouraging the manufacture of ſilk in Great Britain, continued till 24th June 1788.

The act for allowing the free importation of cochineal and indigo, continued till 29th September 1788.

The act prohibiting the importation of foreign editions of books, originally compoſed and printed in Great Britain, continued till 29th September 1788.

The act for ſecuring the duties on foreign ſail-cloth, continued till 24th June 1788.

The act for allowing the bounty on corn exported in neutral veſſels, continued till 25th March 1783.

The act for allowing the exportation of proviſions, merchandize, &c. to the ports in America, which were under the protection of the Britiſh army, continued till 1ſt June 1783.

The act prohibiting the tranſportation by water of copper in bars or ſheets, continued till 1ſt May 1783.

The act for allowing the exportation of wheat to the Britiſh ſugar colonies only, continued till 1st May 1783. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 13.]

The act, allowing merchant ſhips to have foreign ſeamen for three fourths of their complement, was alſo continued till 25th March 1783. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 16.]

April 12th—In the Weſt-Indies a general engagement took place between the Britiſh fleet commanded by Admiral Rodney and the French fleet commanded by the comte de Graſſe. The battle, which began in the morning, was kept up the whole day with unremitting fury on both ſides, and terminated in the evening by a complete victory gained by the Britiſh fleet. One French ſhip of the line was ſunk, and five were taken, one of which, called the Ville de Paris, was a preſent made by the city of Paris to the king at the expenſe of £176,000: ſhe carried 110 guns, and was eſteemed the fineſt ſhip that ever ſwam upon the ocean *. The comte de Graſſe, who was onboard her, conſequently augmented the ſplendour of the victory by the capture of the commander-in-chief. As the whole train of artillery, intended for a grand attack upon Jamaica, was onboard the ſhips which were taken, this victory may juſtly be conſidered as having effected the ſafety of that important colony, and alſo as having given a complete check to the career of French conqueſt in the Weſt-Indies, where for ſome time paſt almoſt every event had been adverſe to the intereſt of Great Britain. And it was not leſs critically fortunate to the reputation and intereſt of the admiral, as it prevented him from being ſuperſeded in the command, and from being ſubjected to a rigorous parliamentary inquiry reſpecting the tranſactions at St. Euſtathius, and alſo procured him the thanks of both houſes of parliament, together with a peerage accompanied by a penſion to himſelf and his heirs.

April 22d—After Mr. Adams had ſpent a whole year in ſoliciting the Dutch to acknowlege the independence of the United ſtates of America, and to enter into an alliance with them, as the republic in the whole world moſt ſimilar to their own, in religion, in manners, and even in the events by which both had obtained their independence, they at laſt, with their national dilatorineſs of conſultation, publicly received him as ambaſſador from the United ſtates, whoſe independence they only now acknowleged; though they had from the beginning of the conteſt covertly, and for ſome time paſt overtly, done all in their power to aſſiſt them againſt Great Britain. It is worthy of remark, that the public reception of the American ambaſſador took place at the very time, when propoſals for a ſeparate peace with the Dutch, under the mediation of Ruſſia, and admitting a free navigation on the full principles of the armed neutrality, were offered by Great Britain.

* This proud trophy of the Britiſh victory was loſt at ſea. But another ſhip of equal magnitude was immediately built to carry her name.

May 8th—The iſland of New Providence ſurrendered to the arms of Spain: and the innumerable cluſter of the Bahama iſlands, of which it was the ſeat of government, and then alſo the only one containing any conſiderable number of inhabitants, was comprehended in the capitulation. Of all the numerous iſlands and ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies, colonized or conquered by Great Britain, there remained now only Jamaica with its dependencies, Barbados, Antigua, the Virgin iſlands, Anguilla, Barbuda, and Bermuda.

May—The reduction of the bounty being found to diminiſh the number of veſſels employed in the Greenland whale fiſhery, it was again raiſed to forty ſhillings a tun. And, whereas in time of war it is exceedingly difficult to procure the number of men required by the law, the ſhips were permitted to take in men, not exceeding two for every fifty tuns of their burthen at Shetland, and to land them there on their return from the fiſhery. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 19.]

The act, permitting the importation of tallow, hog's lard, and greaſe, free of duty, was continued till the 25th of March 1785. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 20.]

Some regulations for preventing the fraudulent importation of foreign ſnuff, and to prevent ſmuggling by veſſels fitted out as privateers, were enacted. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 21.]

The practice of ranſoming ſhips taken by the enemy being found liable to great abuſes, it was prohibited under a penalty of £500, and all ranſom bills were declared to be null and void after a limited time. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 25.]

An additional duty of four pence on every pound of tobacco, and of eight pence on every pound of ſnuff, imported, was ordered to take place after the 1st of June 1782.——The duties of cuſtoms upon brandy and arrack were repealed, and a new duty impoſed of £8 : 8 : 0 with an addition of five per cent upon that duty, upon every tun, containing 252 gallons, of brandy, or ſpirits entered under that name, imported from any foreign country, and the ſame upon arrack. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 28.]

The Britiſh planters in the iſlands of St. Chriſtophers, Nevis, and Montſerrat, now living under the dominion of France, were permitted to carry their produce to any part of the Britiſh dominions in Europe or America, and to pay only the duties payable upon the produce of the iſlands ſubject to Britain. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 30.]

The act [6 *Geo. III, c.* 22] for regulating the loading of ſhips with coal at Newcaſtle and Sunderland, being found beneficial, was prolonged till 25th March 1789. [22 *Geo. III,* c. 32.]

Inland bills of exchange, promiſſory notes, and other notes not payable on demand, were ſubjected to ſtamp duties*. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 33.] This regulation made a conſiderable addition to the income of the poſt-

* As thoſe ſtamp duties were afterwards augmented, it is needleſs to take further notice of them here.

office by aboliſhing the practice of drawing bills on the paper of the letters, which accompanied them.

June 19th—Tobacco, the growth of the Britiſh plantations, was permitted to be imported during the continuance of the war, from any port of America, the Weſt-Indies, or Europe. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 38.]

In order to put a ſtop to the violence and outrages frequently committed by riotous and ill-diſpoſed perſons, the crime of entering houſes or ſhops, and cutting or deſtroying woollen, ſilk, cotton, or linen, goods, or any tools or utenſils uſed in ſpinning, preparing, or weaving, ſuch goods, was made felony without benefit of clergy. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 40.]

Tickets for the lotteries eſtabliſhed by the parliament of Ireland were permitted to be ſold in any part of Great Britain, except the univerſities of Oxford and Cambridge, under the ſame regulations with reſpect to licences, ſhares, &c. which are enacted for conducting the buſineſs of the Britiſh ſtate lotteries. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 47.]

The affairs of the Eaſt-India company were now become almoſt as much the ſubject of parliamentary diſcuſſion as the national income and expenditure. Mr. Henry Dundas, the lord advocate of Scotland, who had examined the affairs of India with uncommon induſtry and acuteneſs, declared in the houſe of commons, that the revenue of the preſidency of Bombay fell ſhort of its civil and military inveſtments £200,000 annually, which deficiency was made up by Bengal; that the revenue of the preſidency of Madras, though in the four years of peace between 1767 and 1779 it had exceeded nearly one half as much as the expenſes, had not been equal to the civil and military inveſtments during the eight years of war; and that even in Bengal, the moſt fertile and lucrative of the Britiſh poſſeſſions in India, the expenſes of the war with the Mahrattas threatened a partial, if not a total, ſuſpenſion of the inveſtments for England. He condemned the thirſt for conqueſts and frantic military exploits, too often diſplayed by our governors in India, who, he ſaid, inſtead of acting as the faithful ſtewards of a commercial company, were too apt to fancy themſelves Alexanders or Aurengezebes, and he hinted the propriety of placing the management of the territorial poſſeſſions under the direction of the crown. The houſe of commons afterwards reſolved, 'that the orders of the court of directors of 'the Eaſt-India company, which have conveyed to their ſervants abroad 'a prohibitory condemnation of all ſchemes of conqueſt and enlarge-'ment of dominion, by preſcribing certain rules and boundaries for the 'operation of their military force, and enjoining a ſtrict adherence to a 'ſyſtem of defence upon the principles of the treaty of Illahabad, were 'founded no leſs in wiſdom and policy, than in juſtice and moderation;' and that the many deviations from thoſe orders, and the unneceſſary interferences in the affairs of the native princes had been productive of

ſuch prejudice to the intereſts of the company and to their influence in the country, as could never be compenſated by the temporary ſucceſs of any plan of violence or injuſtice. The commons in their reſolutions alſo cenſured ſome parts of the conduct of the directors of the Eaſt-India company, as well as that of their ſervants and agents; and they declared, that Mr. Haſtings the governor-general, and ſome others of the company's ſervants, ought immediately to be recalled from India.

May—At the very time when theſe harſh meaſures againſt Mr. Haſtings were reſolved upon in parliament, he appears to have performed the moſt eſſential ſervices in India by diſſolving the grand confederacy of princes leagued againſt the company. He had already found means to detach a branch of the Mahrattas from that confederacy by means of a treaty of peace and alliance entered into with them on the 13th of October 1781 by Colonel Muir. And now another treaty was concluded with the principal Mahratta ſtate, which was conducted on the part of the company by Mr. David Anderſon, upon liberal principles on both ſides, whereby

Articles, 1, 2, 17) The company agreed to reſtore the countries, forts, &c. lately taken from the Mahrattas, excepting the iſlands of Salſette, Elephanta, Corranja, and Hog iſland.

3, 4) The poſſeſſion of Baroach, with a territory of three lacks of rupees, had been ceded to the company by a former treaty; but they now relinquiſhed their claim to the territory, reſerving only the city.

9) The peſhwa of the Mahrattas engaged to oblige Hyder Ally to evacuate the territories of the company and their allies.

11) It was agreed, that the veſſels of each party ſhould have free acceſs and protection in the ports belonging to either.

12) The company were to enjoy the privileges of trade as formerly in the Mahratta territories, and agreed to grant equal freedom of trade to the Mahrattas in their territories.

13) The peſhwa engaged to ſuffer no other European nation to be eſtabliſhed in his territories, or thoſe depending upon him, the ſettlements of the Portugueſe being, however, underſtood to remain upon their antient footing.

This treaty was ſigned on the 17th of May 1782 by Mr. Anderſon, and confirmed on the 6th of June following by Mr. Haſtings the governor-general, and Meſſieurs Wheeler and Macpherſon members of the council, at Calcutta.

The people of Ireland had obtained from the Britiſh parliament ſome liberal conceſſions reſpecting the freedom of their commerce. But they were not ſatisfied with enjoying as a favour, liable to be reſumed by the ſame power which granted it, what they conſidered as their inherent right; and they proceeded to declare, that no parliament, but their own, ſhould have the power to legiſlate for Ireland. The majority

of the members of the Iriſh legiſlature ſhowing, however, leſs ardour for their emancipation from the controul of the Britiſh parliament, than the people at large thought they ought to do, the volunteer aſſociations determined, that the people of Ireland ſhould not be trifled with by thoſe 'who pretended to be their repreſentatives;' and at a meeting held at Dungannon (February 15th 1782) the repreſentatives, delegated from 143 corps of the volunteers, reſolved, 'that a claim of any body 'of men, other than the king, lords, and commons, of Ireland, to make 'laws to bind that kingdom, is unconſtitutional, illegal, and a griev-'ance; that the powers exerciſed by the privy council of both king-'doms, under colour or pretence of the law of Poynings, are uncon-'ſtitutional and a grievance; that a mutiny bill, not limited in point 'of duration from ſeſſion to ſeſſion, is unconſtitutional and a griev-'ance; and that the ports of Ireland are, by right, open to all foreign 'countries, not at war with the king, and any burthen thereon, or ob-'ſtruction thereto, ſave only by the parliament of Ireland, is uncon-'ſtitutional, illegal, and a grievance.' They further declared, in anſwer to thoſe who had aſſerted, that volunteers, as ſuch, had no right to give their opinions on political ſubjects, 'that a citizen by learning the uſe 'of arms does not abandon any of his civil rights:' and they made known their determination to uſe all conſtitutional means to obtain a ſpeedy and effectual redreſs of their public grievances.

On this ſide of the water the buſineſs was alſo taken up with ſincere intentions of giving all poſſible ſatisfaction to Ireland, which, 'being a 'part of the Britiſh empire, is entitled to the full and equal participa-'tion of all the benefits and all the immunities enjoyed in England, and 'which are conſonant to the principles of the Britiſh conſtitution.' An act was accordingly paſſed (June 21st), whereby the act of the ſixth year of King George I, for ſecuring the dependence of the kingdom of Ireland upon the crown of Great Britain, with the ſeveral matters and things therein contained, was totally, and immediately, repealed. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 53.]

The parliament of Ireland, as a teſtimony of gratitude to the legiſlature of Great Britain, immediately voted twenty thouſand men for the Britiſh navy: and in their addreſs to the king they declared their confidence, that the independence of the legiſlature of Ireland, both as to internal and external objects, would be inviolably maintained.

July—A petition having been preſented to parliament by the calico-printers, wherein they ſet forth, that the Eaſt-India company had taken advantage of the improvements, introduced into their buſineſs ſome years ago, in printing upon engraved plates of copper and other metals, by ſending out plates and workmen to their ſettlements in India, where the low price of labour enabled them to print their calicoes much cheaper than the petitioners were able to do; and that great quantities

of ſuch printed goods were imported, and, it being next to impoſſible to diſtinguiſh them from Britiſh printed goods, the petitioners were in danger of being ruined, and the trade and revenue of the kingdom were in danger of being greatly injured. It was thereupon enacted, that whoſoever ſhould entice any workmen employed in printing calicoes, cottons, muſlins, or linens, or in making blocks, plates, or utenſils, for ſuch manufacture, to go beyond the ſea, ſhould be puniſhed by a fine of £500, and alſo be impriſoned for twelve months; and, in caſe of a ſecond offence, the fine and impriſonment ſhould be doubled. Any perſon found guilty of exporting blocks, plates, or utenſils, for the printing buſineſs, is alſo liable to a fine of £500; and commanders of veſſels, knowingly ſuffering ſuch blocks, &c. to be received onboard their veſſels are ſubjected to a penalty of £100. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 60.]

An additional duty of three pence per pound, with five per cent on the amount of the duty, was impoſed on white, or manufactured, bee's wax imported. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 61.]

An addition of five per cent, upon all former duties upon goods imported, exported, or carried by coaſting navigation, and alſo upon the exciſe duties, with ſome exemptions, was voted by parliament. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 66.]

An act was paſſed to prevent his Majeſty's enemies from being ſupplied with ſhips or veſſels from Great Britain. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 71.]

The prohibition of importing foreign ſilks and velvets [Act 6 *Geo. III, c.* 28] was prolonged till 14th June 1788. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 72.]

The act, of the twelfth year of Charles II, againſt cultivating tobacco in England, was now declared to extend to Scotland. But, as ſeveral people in Scotland, after the interruption of the American trade, had planted tobacco *, all ſuch tobacco, already cured, or now growing, was directed to be entered before the 20th of Auguſt 1782 at the neareſt cuſtom-houſe, and the duties payable on the importation of American tobacco, to be paid for it. The Scottiſh tobacco was not permitted to be carried by land into England, but might be carried thither by water: and no drawback of duty was allowed on the exportation of it. [22 *Geo. III. c.* 73.]

As the drugs, produced in Hungary and Germany, uſed in times of peace with the Dutch to be imported from Roterdam, ſuch drugs were now permitted to be brought from any port in the Auſtrian Netherlands or Germany in Britiſh-built veſſels, and to be conſidered, with reſpect to the duties, as brought from the place of their growth. Wine and organzined ſilk, the produce of Hungary, the Auſtrian dominions,

* Some tobacco was alſo planted in the county of Cork in Ireland, and the crop was worth £40 per acre. [*Lord Sheffield's conſiderations on American trade, p.* 106. *ſixth ed.*] 3

or any part of Germany, were permitted to be ſhipped at any port in the dominions of the emperor of Germany or the houſe of Auſtria, ſubject to the duties payable on Rheniſh wines and Italian ſilks. Timber and ſome other articles were alſo permitted to be imported from any part of Europe in veſſels belonging to the ſubjects of the ſovereign of the country, whereof the articles are the produce, though ſuch country may not have been under the dominion of ſuch ſovereign, when the Navigation act was paſſed in the reign of Charles II. All goods imported under this act in foreign veſſels, or being the property of foreigners, were ſtill ſubject to alien's duty. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 78.]

In the beginning of the year 1780 Lord Shelburne (now marquis of Lanſdown) in the houſe of lords, and Mr. Burke in the houſe of commons, made motions for a thorough reform in the national expenditure. The later, in a powerful ſpeech, laid down as fundamental rules—that all unneceſſary and oppreſſive juriſdictions ſhould be aboliſhed—all public eſtates, held for the purpoſe of creating influence rather than adding to the revenue, ſhould be diſpoſed of—all offices of little or no utility ſhould either be ſuppreſſed, or ingrafted upon others—all offices, which obſtruct the views and operations of the general ſuperintendant of finance, ſhould be aboliſhed—an invariable order ſhould be eſtabliſhed in all payments, to prevent partiality—every eſtabliſhment ſhould be reduced to certainty in all its parts—all ſubordinate treaſuries, as the nurſeries of miſmanagement, and as perplexing the public accounts, ought to be aboliſhed.

Of all the branches of Mr. Burke's vaſt plan of reformation, the one, which chiefly concerns this work, was the abolition of the board of trade and plantations. Mr. Burke aſſerted, that that board had never been of any ſervice to the commerce of this country, and, whenever they interfered, their injudicious tampering had been prejudicial; that they had never been of any uſe to the plantations or colonies. New England, Virginia, and all our wealthy colonies in the Weſt-Indies, were ſettled before their eſtabliſhment: Pennſylvania and Carolina were ſettled after the extinction of the firſt, and before the formation of the preſent, board, during the whole exiſtence of which only Georgia and Nova Scotia were ſettled; two colonies which had coſt more, and were leſs productive, than any of the others *. He remarked, that, however ready adminiſtration might be to defend the board of trade and plantations, they were very cautious of employing them. They were not conſulted on commercial points of the greateſt importance; nor did any of the innumerable regulations for trade originate with that board. Not one of the Eaſt-India bills was planned there. The board had no

* Mr. Burke forgot Canada, the two Floridas, and the four Ceded iſlands, which were formed into provinces after the peace of 1763 under inſtructions drawn up by the board of trade; and of theſe, the iſlands very ſoon became valuable and productive colonies.

concern in any of the commercial acts, such as they were, which were preludes to the American war. When commissioners were sent out to negotiate a peace with America, and an entire new commercial system was in contemplation, the board of trade were not consulted on that occasion, nor on the important changes made in the commercial system by the laws, which allowed Ireland to enjoy a free trade. A member of parliament, who was a lord of trade, vindicated the utility of the board: he appealed to their records, consisting of 2,300 volumes of interesting and important papers: and he adduced the names of Locke, Addison, Prior, Lord Molesworth, Charles Townsend, and many other respectable characters, who had been members of the board, as proofs of its importance. But these arguments were ridiculed by Mr. Burke. And the speaker of the house of commons declared, that the board was not only useless in its functions, but mischievous in its effects in regard to influence; for he considered it as efficient in no other respect *.

Mr. Burke's plan of reform was rejected in the sessions of 1780 and 1781. But now, himself and his friends being in office, he again called the attention of the legislature to his proposals, which were more favourably received; in consequence whereof, on the second day of May 1782 the lords commissioners for trade and plantations severally received an official letter from the earl of Shelburne, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, informing them, that his Majesty had no further occasion for their services as lords of trade.—By this notification the business of the board of trade was discontinued, although it was not abolished till the act of parliament for that purpose passed on the 11th of July following, when

The office of third secretary of state, or secretary of state for the colonies, the board of trade and plantations, the lords of trade and police in Scotland, the principal offices in the board of works, and some others of the inefficient offices, were suppressed; and a new and economical plan was adopted for conducting several branches of the public expenditure. The duty and authority of the board of trade were

* On the other side of the question, Lord Sheffield, whose opinion in commercial matters, will certainly be thought worthy of attention, says, 'It is a most extraordinary circumstance, that a 'nation, which states itself to be commercial, 'should not have a minister, or board, or person 'whatever, who necessarily attends, and applies to, 'comprehends, or considers, the state of com-'merce.'—'A committee of the privy council 'may now and then spare a moment to try a 'plantation cause: but it is an insult to the under-'standing of any man acquainted with this country 'to say, that the privy council will ever form or 'follow any system, examine into, and really un-'derstand, the concerns of commerce.'—'Boards 'of treasury and admiralty, comparatively, are of 'little consequence, the business of the commission-'ers or lords, except the first lord, being nearly, 'no more than officially to sign their names. If 'the board of trade gave improper influence, '(which few people seem now [1783] to think 'it did) or was improperly filled up, the objections 'might have been removed, without the strangest 'neglect of our colonies and commerce by the 'abolition of the only board, which could be use-'ful to both.' [*Observations on the commerce of the American States, p. 261, sixth edition.*]

transferred to a committee of the privy council, who are to act without ſalary, fee, or penſion: and any public money, which was under the management of the lords of trade and police in Scotland, was transferred to the management of the convention of royal burghs. [22 *Geo. III, c.* 82.]

Several conſiderable improvements in London and the ſuburbs, and in other cities and towns, as alſo improvements of roads, and other matters of police throughout the kingdom, were carried on under the ſanction of acts of this ſeſſion of parliament.

In the beginning of this ſummer the emperor of Germany, being deſirous of promoting the commerce of Trieſte, the moſt conſiderable of his two ports in the Mediterranean, advanced four millions of florins to the merchants of that place to enable them to extend their commercial enterpriſes to Aſia and Africa, and alſo to America.

In the courſe of this ſummer the Spaniards were driven from every one of the poſts, which they had fortified on the Muſquito ſhore in order to haraſs the Britiſh ſettlers.

Auguſt—Two of the ſmall ſettlements belonging to the Hudſon's-bay company, called Fort Prince of Wales and Fort York, were invaded by a French armament, conſiſting of one ſhip of 74 guns (the only ſhip of the line, that ever was in Hudſon's bay) and two frigates of 36 guns each, with 250 ſoldiers, 40 artillery-men, cannons, mortars, &c. and commanded by Mr. Perouſe, who was afterwards loſt in a voyage of diſcovery in the South ſea. Againſt ſo very formidable an attack the company's few ſervants had no defence, and conſequently ſubmitted at diſcretion. Mr. Perouſe, according to his orders, demoliſhed the forts, whereby the company loſt property to the amount, as is ſaid, of £500,000; and then he retired, having firſt humanely landed arms and proviſions for the defence and ſupport of ſome of the company's ſervants, who had fled into the woods on his approach.

The Dutch were deprived of Accra, Commenda, and moſt of their other trading poſts, or forts, upon the weſtern coaſt of Africa by Britiſh ſhips of war in the courſe of this year.

The king of France having advanced to the congreſs of the United ſtates of America,

from 28th February to 1st November 1778	-	3,000,000 livres,
from 10th June to 21st December 1779	-	1,000,000
from 29th February to 27th November 1780	-	4,000,000
from 15th February to 15th November 1781	-	4,000,000
and from 10th April to 5th July 1782	-	6,000,000
the congreſs ſtood bound to pay the whole ſum of		18,000,000

with intereſt at five per cent to the king's banker at Paris on the 1st of January 1788. But the king, deſirous of ſhowing kindneſs to his

American allies, inſtead of requiring the payment in one ſum on a fixed day, propoſed that it ſhould be repaid in equal annual inſtallments in twelve years, to begin the third year after the peace, with liberty for the congreſs to pay the debt ſooner, if convenient for themſelves: and he made them a preſent of all the intereſt, due, or accruing, till the day of the date of the treaty of peace *.

The king was alſo ſecurity for 10,000,000 livres, borrowed for the congreſs from the Dutch on the 5th of November 1781 with intereſt at five per cent, to be repaid by inſtallments commencing on the 5th of November 1787. And the whole of both debts was acknowleged in a treaty or contract, ſigned by Doctor Franklin, as ambaſſador for the United ſtates, on the 16th of July 1782, and confirmed by the congreſs in January following.

It was not till the 8th of October, that the Dutch finally completed with ſome very trifling alteration, and publicly confirmed, the treaty with America, which had been ſecretly negotiated in the year 1778. As a brief extract of that treaty has been already given, it would be ſuperfluous to repeat it here †.

The nation being very clamorous for peace, and the events of the war having ſufficiently convinced the advocates for the ſubjugation of America, that there was no probability of their object being accompliſhed, the parliament empowered the king to negotiate for a peace with the Americans: and Mr. Grenville was ſent to Paris, fully authorized to treat with all the powers allied againſt Great Britain, and particularly to offer a preliminary and unconditional acknowlegement of the independence of the American ſtates. The commanders in America were alſo directed to notify the pacific diſpoſition of the Britiſh government to the American congreſs, who, however, declared, they would liſten to no propoſals for a pacification, but in conjunction with, and with the conſent of, their allies. In truth, all the belligerent powers were now tired of the war. The French, though they had taken many of our Weſt-India iſlands, had no reaſon to congratulate themſelves upon the ſucceſs of their interference: their commerce had ſuffered ſeverely; many of their merchants were ruined; and even the national credit began to ſtagger under the weight of their own expenſes and the ſupplies to America. The Spaniards found themſelves totally diſappointed of their expectations in every inſtance, except the conqueſt of Minorca; that of Florida and the Bahama iſlands being no advantage to a nation, who already had too many unproductive diſtant ſettlements. The Dutch had at leaſt as much reaſon to be tired of the war as any of their

* In the year 1792 the United ſtates had paid all the inſtallments that were due, and alſo, to accommodate the French, who were then in want of money, a part of that which was not yet due. [*Coxe's View of the United ſtates, p.* 364, 370.]

† The chief difference is in the arrangement of the various articles, apparently with a view to make it appear different from the original.

allies, as they had acquired nothing, but loſt many of their moſt valuable trading ſettlements, and almoſt all their trade, which, to a nation poſſeſſing ſo little land, is their all. This unfortunate war had likeways, by expoſing their internal weakneſs, and by obliging them to rely on the aſſiſtance of France, ſunk them into the condition of a province of that kingdom, and thrown them down from the rank they had hitherto held among the powers of Europe. Perhaps America, though the firſt cauſe and principal theatre of the war, ſuffered in moſt reſpects leſs than any of the other belligerent powers. The Americans had no diſtant territories to protect, or to loſe: and, though deprived for a while of the uſe of ſome of their towns, they in fact loſt not an inch of ground. The enormous expenſe of the armies, ſent over to ſubdue them, in reality enriched them with a profuſion of hard money, infinitely beyond what was ever ſeen in the country before: and their merchants were great gainers by the flour, proviſions, and lumber, they were allowed, when the Spaniſh colonies began to feel the hardſhips of the war, to carry to the Havanna, for which they got principally gold and ſilver in return *. But a long continuance of the war muſt have alſo become very diſtreſſing to America. The cultivation of the ſoil required the whole labour of a people, not yet ſufficiently numerous to ſpare great numbers from productive induſtry, and whoſe export trade conſiſted moſtly of rough produce, or ſuch as had undergone only the firſt ſtage of manufacture. Therefor, in ſuch a community the long-continued ſupport of a great army muſt have become productive of ruinous conſequences. The ſplendid and deciſive victory gained by Rodney in the Weſt-Indies, and the brilliant defence of Gibraltar by General Elliot, we may preſume, had their ſhare in diſpoſing to peaceful counſels the enemies of Great Britain, who, alone, and unallied, had ſucceſsfully oppoſed her fleets to thoſe of all the principal maritime powers of the world, while her commerce, if compared with that of her enemies, might be ſaid to be but little depreſſed. Peace being thus the wiſh of all parties, the proviſional articles for a treaty with America were ſigned at Paris on the 30th of November; and from that day, though the diplomatic formalities ſpun out the negotiations for many months, the war may be ſaid to be at an end.

It has already been obſerved, that during the American war the quantity of Britiſh goods, really carried to, and conſumed in, America, was not very much diminiſhed by the interruption of the direct intercourſe with that continent. [ſee above, p. 591] But beſides the goods, which the Americans obtained by the circuitous trade of the neutral iſlands,

* So lucrative was this trade, that, if half their veſſels were taken, they were ſtill able to carry it on with very great advantage. It was to the captures of ſome of thoſe veſſels, that our Weſt-India iſlands were indebted for a conſiderable part of their ſupplies from the year 1780 till the termination of the war.

what they got by the capture of Britiſh veſſels, and what were ſmuggled into the revolted territories from Nova Scotia, (the exports to which will be found by the annual accounts of imports and exports to have increaſed prodigiouſly after the commencement of the war) from New York, and from Carolina and Georgia when in poſſeſſion of the Britiſh troops, 'many ſhips, which cleared for New York and Halifax at the 'ports of London, Briſtol, Liverpool, and thoſe of Scotland, and Ire-'land, went at great riſk, and in the face of the act of congreſs, directly 'to (the United ſtates of) North America. One ſhip in particular, 'loaded with Britiſh goods, cleared from London for New York, but 'went directly to Boſton; the cargo was ſold wholeſale for 270 per cent 'profit—what did the conſumer pay, who bought the articles by re-'tail? Several cargoes, that went to the American ſtates, were paid 'for in ready money before their departure from England; and all 'this happened, when the markets of France, Holland, &c. were open 'to them.' [*Lord Sheffield's Obſervations on American commerce, p. 250, ſixth ed.*]

Neither was the quantity of American produce, which found its way into the ports of Great Britain, ſo very much diminiſhed, as might have been expected, when the Americans declared the ports of their country open to all the world, and the Britiſh veſſels, which uſed to have a monopoly of the carrying trade, were excluded from them. Conſiderable quantities of tobacco, the principal commercial article of American produce, were imported into Britain from the Dutch iſland of S^t. Euſtathius, till the commencement of hoſtilities with the Dutch, and the ſubſequent capture of the iſland, ſhut up that free port. After that it was imported by the medium of the Daniſh iſland of S^t. Thomas: but a much greater quantity found its way into the Britiſh iſland of Tortola, which in the courſe of this year ſhipped almoſt a half of all the tobacco that came into the ports of Great Britain *.

It is proper here alſo to take notice of a very profitable clandeſtine trade, which was ſaid to be carried on, and, I believe to a very conſiderable amount, by ſome people, within the towns occupied by the Britiſh forces in America, and others, connected with them in the revolted ſtates, by preconcerted friendly captures of veſſels to be met with at a certain time and place, whoſe cargoes, conſiſting frequently of proviſions, ſometimes of tobacco, &c. came to a moſt excellent ready-money market by being ſold at vendue (auction) as prizes. Articles of proviſions

* The tobacco imported this year was,	in England	-	7,203,262 pounds	
	in Scotland	-	2,624,807	
				9,828,069
of which there came from Tortola,	to England	-	3,274,909	
	to Scotland	-	1,505,057	
				4,779,966
The remainder, partly produced in, and partly ſmuggled into, Carolina and Eaſt Florida, partly the produce of capture, or ſmuggled into the Weſt-India iſlands, and partly imported from the continent of Europe, was				5,048,103

eſpecially ſold at monſtrous prices, in conſequence of the very crowded ſtate of the towns, which had almoſt no back country, acknowleging the Britiſh government, to ſupply them.

An eſtimate was made, by order of the congreſs, of the numbers of inhabitants in the United ſtates, in order to proportion the aſſeſſments upon each ſtate, which was as follows.

New Hampſhire	82,200	inhabitants, being	34 thouſandth parts of the whole.
Maſſachuſets bay	350,000	- -	147
Rhode iſland	50,400	- -	21
Connecticut	206,000	- -	86
New York	200,000	- -	84
New Jerſey	130,000	- -	54
Pennſylvania	320,000	- -	134
Delaware	35,000	- -	15
Maryland	220,700	- -	92
Virginia	400,000	- -	167
North Carolina	200,000	- -	84
South Carolina	170,000	- -	71
Georgia	25,000	- -	11
Total of inhabitants of all ages, colours, and conditions,	2,389,300 *	- -	1,000

December 23d—The harveſt having been dreadfully deficient this year, the parliament allowed the importation of all kinds of grain, upon payment of low duties, which was to continue till the 25th of Auguſt 1783 in England, and till the 25th of September 1783 in Scotland. [23 *Geo. III, c.* 1.]

A view of the increaſe of the Scottiſh herring fiſhery from the year 1751 to the year 1776, has already been given; and the decline of it after that year has alſo been noticed [pp. 395, 633.] The following view of its declining ſtate during the war, and alſo of the exportation of

* This eſtimate was cenſured as too high by Lord Sheffield, who obſerves, that the beſt accounts ſtate the number of whites in the American ſtates as not exceeding 1,700,000 [*Conſiderations on the commerce of America, p.* 239, *ſixth ed.*] He does not ſay any thing of the number of negro ſlaves: but if the eſtimated proportion of 10 negroes to 11 whites be nearly true, it makes the total number in the eſtimate correſpond very well with that number of whites. Mr. Coxe ſhows, apparently upon good grounds, that the eſtimate was rather under, than above, the truth: and Mr. Jefferſon makes it exceedingly probable, that the number in Virginia this year was 567,614, of whom 270,762 were ſlaves. Succeeding enumerations, more accurately taken, ſhow, that the numbers have increaſed in all the ſtates with aſtoniſhing rapidity. [See *Coxe's View of the United ſtates, pp.* 197, 280.—*Jefferſon's Notes on Virginia, p.* 143.—See alſo *Tatham's Political economy of inland navigation, p.* 36.]

herrings and cod from Scotland, is taken from the official accounts, made up in the cuſtom-houſe at Edinburgh by Mr. Boyd, examiner of ſalt and fiſhery accounts.

Years	Busses.	tunnage.	men.	Barrels of herrings taken.	Exported						Bounties paid to busses, and on exportation of fiſh.
					Herrings			Cod			
					red, bar.	white, bar.	total barrels.	cwt.	bar.	number, hundreds.	
1777	240	11,727	2,600	43,313	800	41,217½	42,017½	12,302		441	25,104 8 1
1778	220	10,877	2,504	40,958	843	35,620	36,463	8,727		110	22,475 18 4
1779	206	10,191	2,343	20,367	834	32,110	32,444	6,583		63	20,600 17 0
1780	181	8,903	2,061	19,885	119	25,122	25,241	13,703	6	789	19,058 19 11
1781	136	6,449	1,494	16,593	190	14,082½	14,272½	14,485		16	13,746 0 1
1782	147	7,291	1,667	13,457		12,522½	12,522½	14,038	184½	144	14,414 12 10

It muſt be obſerved that the numbers of barrels taken, here ſtated, include only thoſe taken in the firſt voyage in each ſeaſon, called the *bounty voyage*. But, as the buſſes often made a ſecond, and ſometimes even a third, voyage, and as the herrings taken in thoſe after voyages are believed to be, one year with another, equal to thoſe taken in the bounty voyages, the real quantity of herrings caught and cured by the buſſes may be fairly eſtimated at double the quantity here ſtated. The number of herrings taken by boats, and conſumed freſh, or ſlightly ſalted, in the country, of which no account is taken, muſt alſo be prodigiouſly great; eſpecially when an extraordinary plenty, and conſequently low price, encourages the cadgers (higglers) to carry them as far as poſſible into the inland parts of the country.

The precarious nature of the fiſhery appears very ſtrongly from the great inequality of the exportation from the ſame port. Campbelltown, which in the year 1755 exported 24,436 barrels, and has been generally one of the chief ports of Scotland for the exportation of herrings, exported this year only 396 barrels. Stranraer in the year 1758 exported 13,121 barrels, and has in ſome years exported none at all. Cod is chiefly exported from Shetland, next to which Campbelltown, and of later years ſometimes Stornoway and Aberdeen, have been the chief fiſhing places for the exportation of cod *.

The exportation of ſalmon, which formerly uſed to be a very conſiderable branch of Scottiſh trade, is now almoſt entirely annihilated by the demand for the conſumption of London: and it is thought that the method of conducting the fiſhery in the rivers is annually diminiſhing the breed of ſalmon.

The following view of the trade of England in herrings and cod,

* Theſe comparative remarks are taken from Mr. Boyd's account, which is too bulky to be inſerted entire.

during the ſame years, is extracted from accounts laid before the houſe of commons.

Years	Herrings exported			Herrings consumed at home		Cod exported, cwt.	Total of bounties paid on vessels, and on exportation of herrings and cod †.		
	red, barrels.	white, barrels.	total barrels.	red, thousands *.	white, barrels.				
1777	12,115	11,775½	23,890½	12,898,357	6,765	3,473	4,024	9	0
1778	12,703½	11,738	24,441½	11,235,909	5,814	3,536	3,666	4	6
1779	18,942½	13,829	32,771½	19,327,045	8,352	493	3,583	15	0
1780	24,083½	7,697½	31,781	13,350,544	3,744	4,139	3,925	10	0
1781	19,386	12,513	31,899	12,769,786	4,394	6,905	4,493	12	6
1782	21,091	14,268½	35,359½	12,944,130	1,563	1,341	3,970	10	0

The fiſhery of pilchards on the coaſt of Cornwall is alſo a conſiderable object, affording employment to above 3,000 fiſhermen beſides the ſeamen employed in carrying the fiſh to foreign markets, which are chiefly the ports in the Mediterranean, and in importing ſalt, ſtaves, and other materials for the fiſhery, and four or five thouſand people employed in the buſineſſes connected with it on ſhore. Pilchards are ſo much in requeſt in the Italian ſtates, that the orders from them for lead, tin, copper, leather, &c. have been often conditional, that if ſuch a quantity of pilchards could not be ſent, the other articles could not be received: and the Venetian government allowed Britiſh veſſels importing a certain proportion of pilchards to take in currants at their iſlands, though the carriage of that fruit was reſtricted to their own veſſels. The annual export of this fiſh on an average of ten years 1747-1756 was about 30,000 hogſheads; but it had now declined to 12,000 or 13,000.

The herring fiſhery on the Yarmouth coaſt has alſo declined very much. At this time it employed only 94 veſſels; whereas in the year 1760 it employed 205 of from 30 to 100 tuns, and gave employment to about 6,000 men, women, boys, and girls, beſides 30 or 40 veſſels from Folkſtone, Haſtings, &c. which have now deſerted it entirely. For about twenty years preceding 1760 the annual capture of herrings on the Norfolk coaſt was above 47,000 barrels, of which about 38,000 were exported. The fiſhery, which the people of Yarmouth, with the aſſiſtance of the Shetland fiſhermen, uſed to carry on, in about two hundred veſſels of from 40 to 60 tuns, in the neighbourhood of Iceland, where the cod moſt ſaleable in the Spaniſh and Italian markets are

* The numbers here given are the totals of each year, according to the account made up at the ſalt-office in July 1784 by order of the committee of the houſe of commons. But they appear unaccountably great, being, independent of the barrels, far beyond a thouſand red herrings for every perſon, young and old, in all England and Wales; whereas, I think, it may be doubted, whether every individual, one with another, conſumes twenty red herrings in a year. Quere, if for *thouſands* we ſhould not read ſingle *herrings*?

† For the ſums in this column I am indebted to Doctor Anderſon. See his *State of the Hebrides* (Weſtern iſlands) *p.* 446.

caught, has been annihilated by the operation of the ſalt laws. Several gentlemen from Yarmouth informed the committee of the houſe of commons that they would willingly revive that fiſhery, if it ſhould be relieved from the oppreſſion of thoſe laws.

In conſequence of the liberal encouragement, given to the fiſheries by the parliament of Ireland, [ſee above, p. 405] the herring fiſhery of that country was now conſiderably advanced. The Iriſh, however, ſtill continued to import herrings to anſwer the great demand for the Weſt-Indies. The following is a view of the progreſs of their trade in that article.

	Imported.			Exported.
	from Great Britain.	from the East country.	Total.	
Annual average number of barrels from 1756 to 1764 i. e. before the bounty	23,201	1,847	25,048	
D°. from 1764 to 1773	16,657	25,365	42,022	
D°. from 25th March 1763 to 25th March 1767			32,824	4,672
D°. from 25th March 1779 to 25th March 1783			12,277	24,273
In the year ending 25th March 1773			4,324	48,491½
of which there were for the West-Indies				35,960

Such have been the decreaſe of the imports, and the increaſe of the exports, ſince the commencement of the public encouragement.

The other articles of fiſh exported from Ireland to any amount, in the year ending 25th March 1783, were - cod 272 barrels, hake 1,367 cwt, and ſalmon 253 tuns,

In the year 1780 the herring fiſhery in Loch Swilly employed 130 bounty veſſels, which expended 1,708 tuns of ſalt, wherewith they cured, by computation - - - 51,240 maize *.

In the ſame ſeaſon 71 veſſels from Liverpool and Mann purchaſed in the ſame loch - - 39,000 for making red herrings, at 10*d* per hundred, amounting to £8,125.

In 1781 there were 147 bounty veſſels in Loch Swilly, which expended 1,914 tuns of ſalt, and cured 57,420

And 117 veſſels from Liverpool and Mann bought 49,950 for which they paid £12,487 : 10 : 0.

The total taken in the two years - 197,610 maize, or 98,805,000 herrings, beſides what were uſed freſh in the adjacent country.

* A maize contains 500 herrings.

A great proportion of the herrings imported from Scotland is conſumed in the country, being preferred on account of their ſuperior curing; the reſt are repacked in Iriſh barrels of 28 gallons for exportation. Thoſe from the Eaſt country, which uſed to be ſold in Ireland ſo low as 14*s* a barrel, are alſo repacked for exportation to the Weſt-Indies in Iriſh barrels *.

The Iriſh have great advantages in the herring fiſhery. The arrival of the herrings, ſo precarious upon the extenſive weſt coaſt of Scotland, is certain on the north-weſt coaſt of Ireland; and they ſwim cloſe to the ſhore. The fiſhery is free from reſtrictions, and the adventurers either fiſh themſelves, or purchaſe from the fiſhers, as they find moſt convenient, whereby they are often enabled to complete their loading in two or three days, and to make ſeveral trips during one fiſhing ſeaſon, which generally laſts ſix weeks, or two months. And thus they can obtain a much greater quantity of fiſh in the ſame ſpace of time, and alſo run their cargoes much earlier to a market, than the Britiſh fiſherman, who is tied down by reſtrictive laws to loſe a great deal of time, and ſupport a very heavy expenſe, that he may be entitled to the bounty.

The certainty, and great abundance, of herrings have induced many of the fiſhermen of England and Scotland to prefer the Iriſh fiſhing grounds to thoſe of their own coaſts. But there is an unneighbourly jealouſy upon the ſubject of the fiſheries between the Iriſh and the Scots, greatly againſt the true intereſts of both. There are ſurely herrings enough in the ſea for both: and, if the fiſhery is wiſely and harmoniouſly conducted, markets may be found, notwithſtanding the decline of popery, ſufficient to employ the induſtry of both to great advantage.

Upon the whole, the Iriſh fiſhery may be conſidered now as but in its infancy. But if Nature and the legiſlature ſhall continue to favour it, as they have hitherto done, it muſt undoubtedly in a few years ſurmount all rivalſhip, at leaſt in Great Britain, unleſs an entire new ſyſtem of fiſhery laws ſhall be adopted.

As the fiſh trade of Ireland was formerly ſo much connected with that of Sweden, it may be proper here to give ſome account of the later. For above twenty years paſt about 200,000 barrels had been annually cured on the Swediſh coaſt in the neighbourhood of Gottenburgh. The exports from thence to Ireland, which uſed to be very conſiderable, were now, as we have juſt ſeen, greatly reduced by the improved ſtate of the Iriſh fiſhery. Several cargoes of Swediſh herrings were ſent to S^t. Euſtathius in the years 1779 and 1780, whence they found their way into the various ſugar iſlands. In the French Weſt-

* The legal meaſure of herring barrels in Britain is 32 gallons; and it appears to be the ſame in Sweden; but the information reſpecting their meaſure varies.

Indies they were not admitted, and few went to France. The principal markets were within the Baltic ſea, as will appear by the following

Account of exports of herrings from Gottenburgh

in the years - -	1775	1776	1777	1779	1780	1781
To Cork and other ports in Ireland	25,836	56,400	19,267	7,313	13,243	
Madeira, and the West-Indies (chiefly St. Eustathius)	6,278	7,437	5,826	20,849	7,281	2,700
France and the Mediterranean	300	4,267	5,413	8,369	12,615	24,225
Different ports in the Baltic not subject to Sweden	41,552	37,091	64,465	58,069	44,747	80,474
Different ports of Sweden	20,627	23,272	37,075	40,485	28,778	29,250
Totals of barrels measuring 32 gallons *, and containing about 900 herrings each	94,593	128,467	132,046	135,085	106,664	136,649

So ſuperabundant was the capture of herrings on the Swediſh ſhore, that it exceeded every poſſible demand for them; and they were obliged to boil many millions of them for oil, one barrel of which was obtained from eighteen barrels of herrings. In the year 1781 they exported to the Baltic, Holland, and Spain, 14,542 barrels of herring oil of about 42 gallons each; and from 1,000 to 1,500 barrels were annually conſumed in the country. But the herring oil is greatly inferior to whale oil, or even liver oil, and is liable to congeal in cold weather to a conſiſtence ſomething like honey †.

The herring fiſhery of Holland, once ſo pre-eminently great and flouriſhing, employed now only 200 buſſes of about 26 tuns burthen.

The French for ſome few years paſt had caught ſome herrings of an indifferent quality upon their own coaſt, part of which they dried for the Mediterranean trade, but the greateſt part was ſhipped for their Weſt-India ſettlements.

The war was of ſome ſervice to the city of Dantzik in reviving its commerce. In the courſe of this year 549 veſſels ſailed from that port, many of which were employed to great advantage in carrying timber for the uſe of the Britiſh navy; and 502 arrived, not one of which was under Dutch colours, though many of them were, probably, Dutch property.

* So the ſize of the barrel is ſtated by the author of this information. But from a number of other authorities the Swediſh barrels appear to contain *thirty-ſix* gallons.

† The oil-makers uſed to throw the refuſe of the herrings into the ſea, which practice, being thought prejudicial to the fiſhery and to navigation, was prohibited by an edict from the king. The oil-makers remonſtrated, and were permitted to make ſome experiments, which, as they alleged, proved, that the fiſhery was improved by throwing the refuſe into the ſea. Strange, that it ſhould not occur to them, how valuable ſo vaſt a quantity of animal ſubſtance muſt be as a manure!

The official value of the imports and exports of Great Britain from Chriſtmas 1781 to Chriſtmas 1782 was as follows.

Countries, &c.	Imported into		Exported from	
	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.	ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Africa	£68,475 16 5		£351,734 18 5	
Canaries	1,341 12 11			
Denmark and Norway	73,038 9 2	£31,640 10 7	164,732 2 4	£34,575 11 5
East country	332,738 7 2		130,524 7 9	
East-India	626,319 8 5		1,467,844 10 11	
Flanders	1,083,092 6 5	92,300 4 2	2,069,983 7 1	65,559 8 2
France	4,783 13 6		8,153 11 2	
Germany	524,882 14 2	13,636 15 8	1,549,745 11 8	19,417 17 2
Greenland	30,536 1 2	1,420 16 0	91 4 0	
Holland	2,485 12 7	6,522 6 8	90,933 17 4	
Iceland		37 10 0		
Ireland	1,348,510 11 10	149,889 19 4	1,715,889 0 7	201,182 19 10
Mann	15,644 9 6	253 4 0	28,059 12 8	176 19 1
Italy	177,608 8 8		488,163 10 4	975 0 0
Madeira	3,867 7 6		50,256 13 2	
Poland		12,695 13 9		43 11 0
Prussia		14,863 5 10		3,325 2 2
Portugal	280,654 14 6	8,657 13 1	687,324 11 10	2,800 15 10
Russia	1,185,844 14 4	203,804 14 8	196,577 9 10	11,165 8 8
Spain	144,541 12 5			
Gibraltar	21 2		4,046 19 4	
Straits	344 3 4		9,451 10 0	
Sweden	163,219 7 11	22,698 12 0	56,083 2 7	7,629 18 6
Turkey	41,325 10 7		4,248 3 0	
Venice	53,540 16 4		42,113 4 0	
Guernsey, &c.	60,684 10 9	7,171 1 1	87,809 1 10	1,782 0 2
America in general		110,637 10 5		73,311 4 0
Hudsons bay	6,801 18 8		8,188 8 11	
Newfoundland	68,825 4 10		125,388 16 5	
Quebec	144,291 7 10		496,579 8 3	
Nova Scotia	2,943 5 10		71,505 5 2	
New York	7,600 3 2		186,242 4 5	
Carolina	14,182 4 2		69,742 15 8	
Georgia	6,804 1 10		339 15 0	
Florida	30,935 13 6		4,707 0 11	
West Indies in general		132,791 18 5		231,762 17 10
Anguilla	48,239 18 6		5,297 7 2	
Antigua	231,019 5 5		131,438 9 2	
Barbados	176,999 2 5		201,314 13 5	
Bermuda	880 15 11		16,649 9 8	
Jamaica	1,157,121 0 11		670,669 7 7	
Montserrat	47,695 14 9		428 14 10	
Nevis	47,386 16 9		4,387 2 5	
New Providence	1,034 14 4			
St. Christophers	248,916 0 4		23,304 17 8	
St. Croix			850 0 0	
St. Eustathius	7,637 18 7			
St. Lucia	258,141 16 11		139,853 6 9	
St. Martins	40,580 16 1		442 7 5	
St. Thomas	3,952 10 5		222,632 10 7	
Tobago	4,109 7 10		1,893 5 10	
Tortola	161,388 1 2		92,720 12 2	
Demararay	47,913 1 4			
New Orleans	4,426 11 10		14,318 3 1	
Southern fishery	94 5 0			
Prize goods	521,007 3 1		663,089 7 9	
Imp. and exp. of England	9,532,606 19 8		12,355,750 0 1	
Imp. and exp. of Scotland	809,021 15 8	809,021 15 8	653,708 13 10	653,708 13 10
Total, Great Britain	10,341,628 15 4		13,009,458 13 11	

There belonged this year to all the ports

of England	6,495	veſſels of the reputed burthen of	537,257 tuns;
and of Scotland	1,441	- - -	78,024
Total	7,936		615,281

There were entered this year in all the ports of Great Britain, from and to foreign countries, including repeated voyages,

	Britiſh		Foreign		Total.	
	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.	Veſſels.	Tuns.
Inward -	4,652	496,907	2,582	280,346	7,234	777,253
Outward -	6,973	625,731	2,314	225,781	9,287	851,512

The net amount of the cuſtoms, including the Weſt-India four-and-a-half-per-cent duty, paid into the exchequer in the courſe of the year, was

from the cuſtom-houſe in London	£2,801,563	0	9
and from the cuſtom-houſe in Edinburgh	60,000	0	0
Total net revenue of the cuſtoms of Great Britain	£2,861,563	0	9

There were coined at the mint in the courſe of the year

14,940 pounds of gold, value	£698,074	7	0

and no ſilver.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.